

# Saint Joseph Parish

July 1, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the St. Joseph Parish community,

July 1<sup>st</sup> marks the beginning of our fiscal year so it seems like a good time to give all of you an update as to what has been going on since I showed up on the scene five months ago. First, I want all of you to know how deeply grateful I am to Almighty God for choosing me to shepherd this vibrant parish community. I am deeply humbled by the opportunity that Archbishop Carlson has given me to serve all of you! Needless to say, everyone associated with running all the operations in the parish community has been really busy.

## Parish Office

*Business Manager:* **Julie Zysk** will coordinate with parish leadership to oversee the day-to-day administrative operations of the parish including financials, human resources and facilities. Prior to joining St. Joseph, she worked in the Shared Accounting Department of the Archdiocese of St. Louis for six years. Julie and her husband, Paul, joined St. Joseph Parish in 1999. They have four children who have attended St. Joseph School and PSR.

*Parish Life Coordinator:* **Adrienne Griffard** will manage, organize and oversee the many generous volunteer groups and committees that make up this vibrant parish. “I will provide opportunities and organize events where parishioners can come together in fellowship, grow in their Catholic faith and serve each other and visitors,” Adrienne said.

I (**Fr. Dan Shaughnessy**) saw the need for a Parish Life Coordinator when I came to the parish in February after consulting with **Fr. Nick Winker**, the Pastoral Council, the Finance Council, the School Board and the parish staff. It seemed that St. Joseph parish needed someone to oversee and coordinate all of the wonderful lay ministries that are doing incredible things to build up the Mystical Body of Christ here at St. Joseph.

*Director of Facilities:* In addition to being an incredibly kind and joyful person, **Keith Newbury** is an incredibly competent and conscientious maintenance supervisor. His “can do” attitude coupled with his speed at completing projects makes him an essential part of the St. Joseph parish team. I am personally delighted that he was willing to step up to the director role. He is always willing to ‘go the extra yard’ in working the parish staff, the school staff and all of our neighbors. Thanks Keith!

## Parish School

St. Joseph Catholic Day School is continuing to enroll for the 2015-2016 school year for grades K-8. To receive an enrollment packet to reserve your child's place, to schedule a tour of the school, or if you have any questions regarding tuition and the enrollment process,

please contact **Stephanie Haefner** at the school office at 636-464-9027 ext. 231 or [shaefner@stjosephimperial.org](mailto:shaefner@stjosephimperial.org). If you thought St. Joseph Day School or PSR programs were out of your reach for financial reasons, please reconsider. Tuition assistance is available through the parish office. **Fr Shaughnessy** can be contacted at 636-464-1013 or [frshaughnessy@gmail.com](mailto:frshaughnessy@gmail.com). St. Joseph Catholic Parish invites your family to join in our mission to sanctify, to teach, and to serve! Register now by going to [stjosephimperial.org](http://stjosephimperial.org) or calling 636-464-1013 or 636-464-9027.

With that having been said, I'd like to update you on the "goings-on" around the school. In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce our new faculty and staff. First though, we will begin with an update from our principal, **Melissa Langevin**,

"I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer break. We are in full swing around here getting ready for the 2015-2016 school year. As we continue to plan for the next academic year, I have a variety of hopes and goals but two really stand out. First, I hope to have all parents be a strong part of the St. Joseph parish community with their family faith life and second, I sincerely hope that parents will increase their sense of volunteerism in the community.

There are some changes to be noted as they relate to teaching and grading methods.

- a) The faculty, with the help of Instructional Specialists **Nicole Scheper** and **Mary Brinkmeyer**, will move to a more authentic grading scale/system than we have used in previous years. Our two specialists will help all of our students perform to the very best of their ability.
- b) Students will go to recess first and then come in to eat lunch. I have heard from parents that their children are too busy talking to eat all of their lunch. By going outside first, the students can socialize and burn off some energy. When they sit down to eat, they will be hungry and want to eat their lunch. This will also prevent the stomachaches when they run around right after eating.
- c) With the technology funds provided through Home and School, we are purchasing 30 chrome books with a charging cart and 15 I-Pads. We will now have a total of 25 I-Pads. Students will use them in their real time learning environment to meet grade level technology curriculum.
- d) The Faith and Life Religion textbook series by Ignatius Press will be implemented in grades K-8. Our 8<sup>th</sup> grade will also receive the new Confirmation program called *Chosen*."

With those exciting developments noted, I'd like to introduce our new faculty and staff members:

**Mr. Dustin Cutts** received his B.A. from Eastern Illinois University in 1999 in General Studies and his M.A. in Education from Lindenwood University in 2006. He is certified to teach both math and science. Prior to joining the faculty at St. Joseph, Dustin taught at Community School in Ladue from 2010-2013 as the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade classroom teacher and at the Kirkwood School District from 2006-2010 as the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade math teacher. Mr. Cutts will be the computer teacher/coach for all students from K-8 and he will be teaching science to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Dustin is very excited about bringing exciting projects and assignments to his students at St. Joseph School.

**Miss Melissa Bouvatte** received her Associate of Arts Degree in teaching from St. Louis Community College in 2012 and her B.S. in middle school mathematics from UMSL in 2015. She is certified to teach mathematics for grades 5-9. Prior to joining St. Joseph, Melissa was student teaching in the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade math classes at Fox Middle School in Arnold, MO. She will be teaching math to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students next year. In addition to preparing students for math competitions, Ms. Bouvatte loves to do project-based learning and is very excited to implement those strategies into her classroom. Outside of school time, she is a gymnastics instructor at Barron Gymnastics.

**Mrs. Nicole Scheper** will be our Senior Instructional Specialist. Nicole received her B.S. from Fontbonne University in 2005 and her Masters of Science in Computer Education, also from Fontbonne, in 2008. She worked as a special education teacher in the Hillsboro School District from 2010-2014 and was a full-time substitute teacher at Assumption School in Mattese for this past school year. Mrs. Scheper will be working closely with Mrs. Brinkmeyer to facilitate learning instruction for students in the classroom. Together, they will be implementing a “push in program” where they work directly with the classroom teachers to keep the students in the classroom rather than pulling the students out of the classroom. She will communicate with parents and assist in getting any evaluations needed to build and educate the whole child spiritually, academically and emotionally.

St. Joseph parishioner and mom **Kara Koch** will be our new receptionist for the coming year. She is mom to recent graduate Thomas Koch as well as William and Meredith Walbaum. She will be working closely with **Stephanie Haefner** in the front office. With St. Joseph parishioner and mom **Tracey Miesner** exiting St. Joseph with a heavy heart for a really incredible opportunity, we are delighted to have Kara with her sunny disposition greeting everyone as they come into the school each day.

Finally, listed below are two educational and developmental best practices that we will be more fully implementing at St. Joseph this year than we may have in years past. All of us are constantly growing and developing our skill sets. Both our new faculty members and our incredibly dedicated current faculty are very excited about these developments.

*Differentiated Instruction:* Newly hired Senior Instructional Coordinator **Nicole Scheper** and Instructional Coordinator **Mary Brinkmeyer**, jointly supervised by School Principal **Melissa Langevin** and Parish School of Religion Director **Pamela Bruce**, will seek to fully meet the unique educational needs of each and every student at St. Joseph School.

In the past, Catholic schools have had to focus on the majority of students' educational needs due to limited resources and limited specialty staff caused by financial restrictions. This has caused some Catholic school students who may have needed more educational support, to be less successful in their learning environment and seek educational services from another educational institution.

After working with students and listening to educators and parents, the administration at St. Joseph recognized the need for more individualized educational support. When parents are trying to educate their child in the Catholic faith, a lack of

educational support should not be a deterrent. We are very excited about both an enhanced and intentional instructional process that will be implemented in the fall at St. Joseph.

Through the use of instructional assistants, students in academic need will be receiving extra educational support in their classrooms, instead of moving them to a different classroom. The benefits that this strategy provides are many, but most importantly, studies show that when students learn strategies for subjects where adaptations and support are needed in their real-time learning environment - their home classroom - students are more apt to use the learned strategies in all subjects and at any time because the environment is the same. Simply put, this allows direct classroom application and more independent student practice. This strategy helps to strengthen the confidence of the student and leads them to have more academic success in their classroom alongside their peers.

Due to the varying learning needs of students and the discretion needed for students and their families, please know that although we can't publicize exactly what the instructional assistants are doing, we can assure you that we are working diligently to meet every student's learning needs. We request your prayers and support as we embark on this exciting new educational process.

*The Virtue Driven School:* When hearing the word virtue, it may bring many different definitions to mind. The definition of virtue from which we will be operating is the one given by the Catechism of the Catholic Church. It states that “a virtue is an habitual and firm disposition to do the good. It allows the person not only to perform good acts, but to give the best of himself. The virtuous person tends toward the good with all his sensory and spiritual powers; he pursues the good and chooses it in concrete actions.” To help up accomplish this goal we will begin implementing the Disciple of Christ – Education in Virtue, a Christian curriculum structured on the teachings of St. Thomas Aquinas. This curriculum emphasizes Christian discipleship as indispensable toward human flourishing and the quest for joy. It has been developed by the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in response to the call for a New Evangelization.

7<sup>th</sup> grade teacher **Barbara Ho** has retired. Computer teacher **Linda Cox** and Learning Consultant **Andrea Howard** are no longer affiliated with St. Joseph school.

## **Parish School of Religion & Added Responsibilities for Pamela Bruce**

Registration for PSR is open to current and new families registered in the parish. All students must be registered by August 14, 2015 to attend the 2015-2016 school year. There are two PSR sessions that will be held on Wednesday evenings for grades K through 8. (Kindergarten is only offered at the 5:00 P.M. session) The first session time is 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The second session time is 6:45 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Class sizes are limited to 15 students per class. Please remember that the 5:00 Early Session is first come, first serve and registrations will be time/date stamped. To register please go to [www.stjosephimperial.org](http://www.stjosephimperial.org). You will select the Education tab, click on PSR, then click on the registration link found in

the sidebar. For questions regarding registration contact **Pamela Bruce** the PSR Director at 636-464-1013 ext.402 or [psr@stjosephimperial.org](mailto:psr@stjosephimperial.org). Tuition assistance is available through the parish office. Fr Shaughnessy can be contacted at 636-464-1013 or [frshaughnessy@gmail.com](mailto:frshaughnessy@gmail.com).

We are currently registering for the 2015/2016 PSR school year. Enrollment forms can be found by going to [www.stjosephimperial.org](http://www.stjosephimperial.org), selecting the education tab and then clicking on PSR.

There will be some new and exciting curriculum and instructional things happening in PSR this year. PSR will be utilizing a new textbook series this year published by Ignatius Press. This new series will look a little different but it holds a deep and rich content. Our PSR students are ready for the challenge. In addition to new textbooks, we will also be implementing the virtue driven school action plan. The purpose of the action plan is to educate students on living a consistent virtuous life, no matter where they are. We are sure that students and staff will enjoy the virtue driven school action plan and we know it will lead to a more respectful, prayerful, and productive Parish School of Religion environment. Finally, the PSR community worship events and standard based report cards that were added over the past year were very successful with the PSR students. This year, we will have a few more additions that will strengthen the spiritual and educational experiences for the PSR student body and promote stewardship in the larger parish community for both students and parents.

**Pamela Bruce** is a devoted Catholic deeply committed to educating the whole child, both spiritually and academically. She is very excited to be the PSR Director after being a 2nd grade PSR teacher for three years as well as Assistant Director of PSR last year, and finds her role both challenging and rewarding. Currently, she is completing her Coordinator of Religious Education Certification which she feels will help her merge her public education system roots with that of the religious education system. Her first year as PSR Director has been highly successful as she used her professional education background to help build curriculum and meet the instructional needs of both the PSR catechists and the students.

She came to St. Joseph as a dedicated educator, certified and experienced in elementary education due to working with the Northwest School District for nine years. During her time at Northwest, she finished her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction and was invited to teach for the University of Missouri- St. Louis, College of Education. Currently, she continues to instruct the UMSL elementary education teacher candidates in a variety of method teaching courses where they learn about the creation and modification of lesson plans and teaching styles, differentiated instruction, behavioral and academic challenges, and classroom management. She has been consistently commended for her ability in giving educators, parents, and students adequate strategies, resources, and knowledge regarding the appropriate stage of cognitive and spiritual development and academic expectations.

Due to her strong ability to build relationships with administration, staff, parents, and teachers, I have additionally brought Pamela onboard as a parish resource for curriculum. In the coming academic year, Pamela will oversee a curriculum review for the entire St. Joseph educational community. She will also be available for curriculum questions/oversight for Day School, PSR and Home Schooling families.

Likewise, with **Melissa Langevin**, she will oversee the two instructional assistants in the school, **Nicole Scheper** and **Mary Brinkmeyer**, who will be utilizing best instructional practices to meet the needs of students, especially those who will benefit from additional educational support in day school and PSR.

## Early Childhood Development

*Nazareth Early Childhood Center:* A new pre-school 3-4 Year old program with full and half-day options is available for full-time and part-time students. Full-time will be 5 full days and part-time will be 3 full days or 3 half days, T-W-TH or 2 half days will be Tuesday and Thursday. The Pre-Kindergarten 4-5 Year Old Program also offers programs for 5 full days, 3 full days or 3 half days T-W-TH. Contact **Stephanie Haefner** at the school office at 636-464-9027 ext. 231 or [shaefner@stjosephimperial.org](mailto:shaefner@stjosephimperial.org).

*Little Lambs:* Are you looking to be part of something special, part of a community that welcomes you and your little ones with open arms? Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and babysitters who are blessed to take care of little ones from 0 - 5, come join Little Lambs. It's a great opportunity to socialize, learn, and grow with your children. Each meeting includes a Bible story or story about a saint, a related activity, short prayer time and blessing for the children. Beginning August 28th, they will meet on the 2nd & 4th Fridays during the school year, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., in the lower bridge building. There is no need to register. Come as often as you can. For information, contact **Margie McEneny**, [mez62c@yahoo.com](mailto:mez62c@yahoo.com), 314-402-9058 or **Julie Nesselhauf**, [julnesselhauf@yahoo.com](mailto:julnesselhauf@yahoo.com), 636-464-4816 with any questions.

*Nursery:* Would you like to be able to focus and participate in Mass without having to worry about what your small children are doing? The nursery in church is available at the 10:00 A.M. Mass every Sunday except Easter and Christmas. It is for children ages 6 months to 4 years. The families who use the nursery take turns staffing the nursery during Mass on a rotating basis. You must have completed Protecting God's Children in order to watch children in the nursery. If you have not completed PGC, you are still welcome to use the nursery until you have. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please email **Andrea Lang** at [andrew\\_andrea@msn.com](mailto:andrew_andrea@msn.com).

*St. Joseph Sunday School:* St. Joseph Sunday school is a structured class where children (3 years old and potty-trained through kindergarten) are taught the Lord's Prayer, read a Bible story and do a project for that story each week. The Children also have a Christmas program and graduation program each year. Sunday school is offered during the 10:00 am mass each Sunday, starting the Sunday after Labor Day until the Sunday before Memorial Day. Call **Barb Welling** at 314-704-4442 or email her at [barbarawelling@att.net](mailto:barbarawelling@att.net). Email is best but she will be happy to get back to messages left on voicemail as soon as possible. Registration will be in the breezeway after 8:30, 10:00 and 11:30 Masses August 16th. St. Joseph Parish is pleased to offer this program at no cost this year.

## Youth Ministry

**Father Winker** and I are delighted to introduce **Beth Thom** as the new Youth Minister for St. Joseph Parish. Beth graduated from the University of Missouri – Saint Louis in May 2009, Summa cum Laude. She is certified in both Early Childhood Education (Birth – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade) and Elementary Education (1<sup>st</sup> Grade -6<sup>th</sup> grade). Below are a few words from **Beth**:

“I am totally humbled, honored, and super EXCITED :-D to be called and accepted as the new Coordinator of Youth Ministry. I have been involved in youth ministry for many years in the past and I am convinced that I would not be where I am spiritually without this amazing ministry. I look forward to allowing God to use me to lead the youth of the parish closer to Christ and help the teens get to heaven someday. Please pray for me and the youth of the parish as we begin this amazing journey! Also, keep an eye out for more information about youth ministry, and please prayerfully discern if you are feeling God calling you to get involved!”

## **Food Pantry**

The new survey of the area surrounding the food pantry has been completed. **Cochran Engineering in Fenton, MO** is working on the new engineering drawings for the food pantry driving lanes and parking areas.

I spoke with the engineers on June 29<sup>th</sup> and they anticipate having the drawings ready for us to review by July 8, 2015. The drawings will then have to be resubmitted to Jefferson County for approval. That process can take 4-6 weeks.

Once the review is completed, we will need to give contractors 2 weeks to rebid the revised drawings. After that, the duration of the construction project is estimated to take approximately 4 weeks. That puts us about 12 weeks out from completion of the project.

I have conveyed the urgency and the time frame we are working with (in regards to funding deadlines set by the Jefferson Memorial County Foundation) to the engineers. It will get done, I promise. I'd like to again thank all the volunteers who have gotten the project to this point. Once we get the exterior near completion, we will refocus our efforts on the inside of the building. I don't want to proceed with that until the exterior site issues are fixed because there is a justified fear with rain and the existing grades, the building could flood. We don't want to have to drywall the building twice!

## **Financials**

And finally, we wanted to give you an update on the parish's financial situation. The Parish operates on a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year. Thru June 30, 2015, our contributions to offertory were \$811,738, which is \$55,397 under our annual budget of \$867,135 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. If you can help with this shortfall, please mail a donation to:

Fr. Dan Shaughnessy  
Parochial Administrator  
St. Joseph Parish  
6020 Old Antonia Road

Imperial, MO 63052

Please write "Collections" on the memo line on the check.

Tuition and fees are under budget by \$11,600 with income of \$1,014,771. Overall, the parish and school are running well due to the wise management of expenses.

We've seen revenue above projections for pre-school. Losses in the cafeteria aren't as projected due to the outsourcing of those services in January, 2015 to Food Service Consultants. The arrangement is working well.

PSR is currently showing a slight surplus as opposed to the budgeted loss.

Overall, we are experiencing a surplus on the core operations mentioned above without taking into consideration a significant anonymous gift and a grant from the Jefferson Memorial Community Foundation to assist in completion of the food pantry.

The numbers above do not include numerous parish organizations that are not mentioned specifically in this letter.

Next fiscal year, our biggest challenges will have to do with paying for the long-term commitments we have made in the school, pre-school and PSR with regard to upgraded religious textbooks, enhanced curriculum planning and faculty changes. In addition, our plan to complete the pantry prior to the fall will likely require financial assistance from the Parish since we have run into some unforeseen obstacles.

In closing, I just want to restate what I wrote at the beginning of this letter. I want all of you to know how deeply grateful I am to Almighty God for choosing me to shepherd this vibrant parish community. I am deeply humbled by the opportunity that Archbishop Carlson has given me to serve all of you! Pray for everyone in this faith-filled community, especially the faculty and staff who have to work with me on a daily basis. ;-)

All kidding aside, we have THE BEST team and I cannot wait to see how ALMIGHTY GOD is going to use all of us in the parish community to build up the Mystical Body of Christ not only in Imperial but throughout the Saint Louis region and beyond.

May Almighty God bless you all!

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Dan Shaughnessy". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Fr. Dan Shaughnessy  
Parochial Administrator  
St. Joseph Parish – Imperial, MO