



Cathedral of St. Joseph

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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HONORING LIFE AT EVERY STAGE

The Morris Family Reflects on Their Commitment to the Pro-Life Cause



The Jamie and Kristan Morris family

St. Teresa of Calcutta famously said, "If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." The virtues we instill within our own homes are the ones that our children will take into the wider culture, to influence it for the better. For Jamie and Kristan Morris, respecting the dignity of human life is a family value – and one that will certainly change the world.

The Morris family originally became part of St. Joseph's when their son started attending kindergarten, and Kristan was teaching at the parish school.

"We immediately signed up for activities in parish life as a way to feel involved and meet other parishioners and parents," Kristan says.

Involvement in and service to the parish quickly became part of routine life for the Morris family.

"I think service has become a way of life for me and now hopefully for my kids,"

Kristan says. "Growing up, my parents were very active in our home parish, so my brothers and I were active by default, going to activities with my parents. As an adult,

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HONORING LIFE AT EVERY STAGE

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I enjoy being helpful in my own parish and meeting other parishioners as a result of this. It's definitely satisfying to contribute toward the greater good of our parish."

Jamie, for his part, was also raised as an active member of his parish.

"My family was very active in the work of our parish, and so we were as well, whether it was serving at daily Mass or helping with the parish picnic," he says.

Jamie and Kristan quickly found the pro-life movement to be a place where they loved to serve.

"Working with the Pro-Life Committee and participating in the meal trains is always meaningful to me," Kristan says. "Through this ministry, we are able to make meals for fellow parishioners who have welcomed a new child into their lives or who are coming off a rough time, such as a hospitalization."

"I have been blessed that my job as the Executive Director and General Counsel for the Missouri Catholic Conference allows me the opportunity to advocate for the pro-life cause on a nearly daily basis," Jamie adds. "Getting to work on those bills will always be meaningful to me. I also get to speak with parish or student groups frequently, which is always rewarding. It's amazing to see the great work being done in and beyond our diocese and meet the people behind it."

As Kristan and Jamie exhibit, upholding the dignity of human life is a task that requires multifaceted stewardship — we must do everything from advocating for legal protection to caring for mothers in crisis, to simply loving our neighbor. By serving life on both an interpersonal and societal level, we can see the change we hope to.

Kristan summarizes this position as a way of life.

"It's easy to think of pro-life as just being anti-abortion, but the pro-life mindset honors life at every stage along the way," she says. "Just as we try to honor God through our time, talent, and treasure, we also honor God every time we respect another human being and treat that person with the respect and dignity that God would want us to."

For both Jamie and Kristan, their own parenthood only deepens the commitment to the pro-life cause in their hearts, as well as seeing how many people in their community are dedicated to the work of human dignity.

"Getting to witness the amazing work of so many people in so many areas of the pro-life movement has shown me what true stewardship looks like," Jamie says. "I am blessed to know countless individuals who have taken God's gifts and shared them with others through their work with women in crisis pregnancies, the unborn (and born), and with those facing the death penalty. They are true models of stewardship."

Whether it's the pro-life movement or another area of service, the Morris family is an example of how the love of one family can influence the lives of those around them and create lasting change.

"Much like stewardship, the pro-life cause is just a way of life for us," Kristan says.

We all have the grace and ability accessible to us to make service part of our own way of life — may we follow God's call to love simply and radically, all at the same time.

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— Jamie Morris

A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

Embracing STEWARDSHIP, THE DISCIPLE'S WAY OF LIFE, *for the New Year*

Dear Parishioners,

Grace and peace to you as we begin a new year filled with hope, blessings, and opportunities for spiritual renewal. As we stand at the threshold of 2026, I invite each of us to reflect on how we can more fully embrace stewardship as a way of life here at the Cathedral of St. Joseph — not as a program or obligation, but as a joyful response to God's love and a daily expression of our discipleship in Christ.

Stewardship, at its heart, is the disciple's way of life. It is how we live out our gratitude to God for all that He has entrusted to us — our time, our talents, and our treasure. When we approach each of these gifts with prayerful intention, we grow in holiness and strengthen the very fabric of our parish community.

Let us begin with the stewardship of time. Time is one of God's most precious gifts, and how we spend it reveals what we truly value. I encourage you to make time for prayer and reflection each day, nurturing your personal relationship with the Lord. Participate regularly in the celebration of the Eucharist and the sacraments. Consider joining one of our parish opportunities for spiritual enrichment — such as Eucharistic Adoration, faith formation, men's, women's, and youth groups, or



retreats — to grow in faith and fellowship. When we dedicate time to God, our lives are transformed, and our parish life becomes more vibrant and Christ-centered.

The stewardship of talent invites us to recognize and share the unique gifts God has given each of us. Every member of our Cathedral Parish family has something vital to contribute. Whether your gifts are best used in liturgical ministry, outreach, education, or behind the scenes, your willingness to serve helps our Cathedral Parish reflect the

compassion and mercy of Christ. I encourage you to review the Ministry Catalog from our 2026 Stewardship Renewal or visit the ministries page on our website at cathedral.diojeffcity.org to discern how you might share your gifts in the year ahead.

Finally, the stewardship of treasure calls us to use our material blessings in ways that honor God and serve others. Our financial support of the parish is an expression of faith and thanksgiving — a tangible way to give back to the Lord who has given us everything. As we begin this new year, I invite you to prayerfully consider taking a step forward in your giving, mindful that your generosity sustains the many ministries, programs, and outreach efforts that make our cathedral parish such a blessing to so many.

As we journey into 2026, may we each renew our commitment to live as grateful and generous disciples. Together, let us build a faith community rooted in prayer, service, and generosity — a community that radiates the love of Christ and gives joyful witness to the Gospel every day.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Stephen W. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Stephen Jones



St. Joseph Servos Volunteers - Fall 2025

Cathedral of St. Joseph

A LOOK AT THE SCHOOL E Growing Our Students' Talents



It takes people with many different skills to make the world go around. If everyone had the same abilities, society as we know it wouldn't function. At St. Joseph Cathedral School, educators recognize that every student has unique talents and interests — this is why the school offers a thriving electives program designed to meet students where they are.

Some of the elective subjects include sculpting, culinary arts, choir, creative writing, study skills, an introduction to Spanish, lifetime sports, a creation station, living saints, a book club, computers/coding, psychology, and service leadership.

"The idea for our junior high electives program grew out of a desire to provide students with opportunities to explore their individual interests and talents while deepening their understanding of how those gifts can be used in service to others," says Principal Gina Bailey. "We also wanted to give them opportunities to grow in certain skills or areas that may be more difficult for them, along with giving them tools to be successful in these areas."

The electives also show students the joy of learning and that they each have gifts to enjoy and explore. Courses were selected based on several factors, including teacher expertise, student interest, and available resources.

"We aim for a balance between creative, academic, and service-oriented options so that every student can find something that sparks joy and engagement," Mrs. Bailey says.

As Mrs. Bailey notes, these students are learning skills that will help them contribute to the world in the future. Some choose an elective where they know they have skills and want to learn more, and others choose based on something they want to learn. Offering these electives is truly the essence of stewardship, says Mrs. Bailey.

"Recognizing our gifts, developing them, and sharing them generously — by engaging the mind, heart, and hands — the program supports the formation of the whole person," she says. "Students grow not only academically but spiritually, socially, and



ELECTIVES PROGRAMS

Talents, Knowledge, and Interests

creatively. It's another way we live out our mission to form disciples who think critically, act compassionately, and live their faith daily."

A bonus is that many of the electives have a built-in service component. The service elective helped coordinate school-wide outreach projects, and the creation station will help with sets for the spring musical, *Mary Poppins*, and has worked on projects to decorate the school. The art class contributes to school displays, and the choir performs at Mass and community gatherings, as well as working on the spring musical.

"Students begin to see that their learning has a real impact beyond the classroom," Mrs. Bailey says.

Many of the electives are taught by teachers, but some are also taught by parishioners, parents, and community members. This builds relationships between the school, parish, and community.

All of these electives are contributing to the education of the whole child – mind, body, and spirit. Plus, the students report that the electives are lots of fun!

"It helps students see that faith and learning are not separate, but interconnected," Mrs. Bailey says. "By allowing students to explore their interests in a Christ-centered environment, we nurture confident,

compassionate young people ready to lead and serve."

Mrs. Bailey looks forward to seeing the program grow and offering even more electives in the future.

"Students love the opportunity to make choices about their learning," she says. "They often share that electives are a highlight of their day because they can explore new interests, work with different groups of peers, and apply their creativity in hands-on ways. Many find meaning in seeing how their work benefits others, whether through service projects, artistic contributions, or teamwork."

Parishioners are welcome to share their talents by leading a course or workshop – to get involved, contact Mrs. Bailey.

Those interested in helping with the elective programs may contact Principal Gina Bailey at gbailey@sjcsmo.org for more information.



Cathedral of St. Joseph

JOY FOR OUR SECOND-GRADERS AS THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE ELEPHANT ARRIVES

Laughs, giggles, clapping, and cheering could be heard from Cana Hall on Nov. 20, 2025, as the second-grade class joyfully and enthusiastically watched as our new elephant for our Christmas creche was unboxed by Steve Meystrik and Jim Vignola.

During the casual conversation between docent Christy Trimble and parishioner Edith Vogel on Epiphany last January, the class learned about the wise men's caravan and how elephants and other animals carried all the

supplies needed for the long journey to Bethlehem to see Baby Jesus.

One child said, "Well, where's our elephant?" Edith, with her big heart for our children, immediately said that she would get one.

Shipped from New York, this beautiful elephant became the center of attention and anticipation as the children awaited their time to "come to the stable" for Christmas.

Perhaps, just maybe, we are the only church in the diocese that has an elephant gracing our creche!



GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH:

A Look at Our Cathedral's Vision for the New Year

As a new year begins, the Cathedral of St. Joseph is striving to renew our vision, rooted in our most essential mission — helping more souls reach heaven. This goal reminds parishioners that the ultimate goal of a Catholic parish is to lead its community closer to Christ. At the Cathedral, this vision is expressed through the stewardship way of life, built upon the pillars of hospitality, prayer, formation, and service.

This year, the parish is placing special emphasis on expanding youth, young adult, and young family engagement. Recognizing the importance of nurturing the faith in younger generations, new programs and events are being developed to draw them into active participation. At the same time, ministries serving the homebound, nursing home residents, and hospitalized parishioners are being enhanced and expanded to help all members of the community feel connected and cared for.

Special attention will be paid to the participation levels in small groups and events targeted towards the youth, young adults, and young families to ensure that the parish is continuing to offer resources that are relevant and needed by the community. However, Deacon Louie Delk shares how he measures

the success of the parish.

“Personally, as a deacon serving at Mass, measuring success is easy,” he says. “I see the full Cathedral. I see the young families coming to Mass. I can directly observe the successes of our program.”

The new year is also a time for reflection, gratitude, and hope. In a world often overshadowed by division and conflict, the parish offers a counterpoint of vibrancy and joy. By recognizing our blessings close at hand, parishioners can cultivate gratitude and hope, which in turn inspires deeper stewardship.

Several new things are already taking place around the parish. The

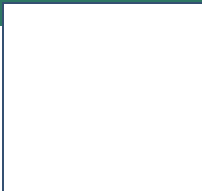
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GROWING TOGETHER IN FAITH

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Faith Formation team has launched a young adult Bible study group, a new men's ministry group has started, and there are new ministries to help new Catholics, as well as elderly and homebound parishioners.

"I am excited to grow my service to our great Cathedral," Deacon Delk says. "With the help of our pastor, I want to grow my availability and visibility and become a bigger part of the vitality I see within our parish community."

Parishioners are encouraged to participate in the many fellowship opportunities that are available, including Sunday Coffee and Donuts, Lenten Fish Frys, and St. Joseph Serves Days, where parishioners work alongside each other in service to others. Eucharistic Adoration, whether in the quiet chapel or during special events like XLT Adoration, remains an important aspect of spiritual renewal.

As the parish looks towards the new year and the new opportunities that are available, everyone is invited to just take one new step, try one new thing, and meet one new person. Small acts of engagement can lead to transformative growth.

"Make eye contact with somebody new," Deacon Delk says. "Grow these new relationships. Grow in your service and ministries within our Cathedral parish. Grow and strengthen your relationship with Jesus."



If you have questions or would like to get involved at the parish, contact Stewardship Coordinator Steve Meystrik, Fr. Jones, or any member of the parish office team at 573-635-7991.