



# Cathedral of St. Joseph

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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## AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR CATHEDRAL'S FINANCE COUNCIL

*Ensuring the Good Stewardship of Our Treasure*

A parish must see to the spiritual needs of its members in order to lead all closer to Christ, but there are temporal needs as well. Our Finance Council sees to those needs to help keep the parish thriving.

"The Finance Council provides advice to the pastor in administering the temporal goods of the parish," says Jim Vignola, our director of finance. "It works on preparing and approving budgets for both the school and the parish."

There are seven who attend the meetings – Fr. Stephen Jones, Jim Vignola, St. Joseph Cathedral School principal Gina Bailey, and four lay members.

"I'm not a voting member, as well as Gina Bailey," Jim says. "We're at-large members, providing advice to the council. I create the budget, report the budget to the committee, and go over any changes they'd like to make. We have a quarterly meeting. I report on the previous quarter's income, expenses, and balance sheet.

Once a year, we do the annual school and parish budgets."

Voting members apply for positions and must be appointed by Fr. Jones. Members hold a three-year term. Current Chairperson Luke Prenger works with Mid America Bank. Jeremy Morris is a CPA and member-owner at the local accounting firm, Williams-Keepers. Elisa Brenneke is the CFO at Industrial Warehouse & Distribution Group. Joe Boland



*The Cathedral of St. Joseph Finance Council – (front row, from left) Elisa Brenneke, Gina Bailey; (back row, from left) Fr. Stephen Jones, Joe Boland, Luke Prenger, Jeremy Morris, Jim Vignola*

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# Cathedral of St. Joseph

## AN INSIDE LOOK AT OUR CATHEDRAL'S FINANCE COUNCIL *continued from front cover*

is the Executive Director of the State Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority.

"I've been a member since 2020, after encouragement from my wife, Molly, who'd just completed her service on the Parish Council," Luke says. "In 2024, I assumed the role of chairperson when my predecessor, Christy Daledovich, stepped down after serving in that position in an exemplary manner for several years."

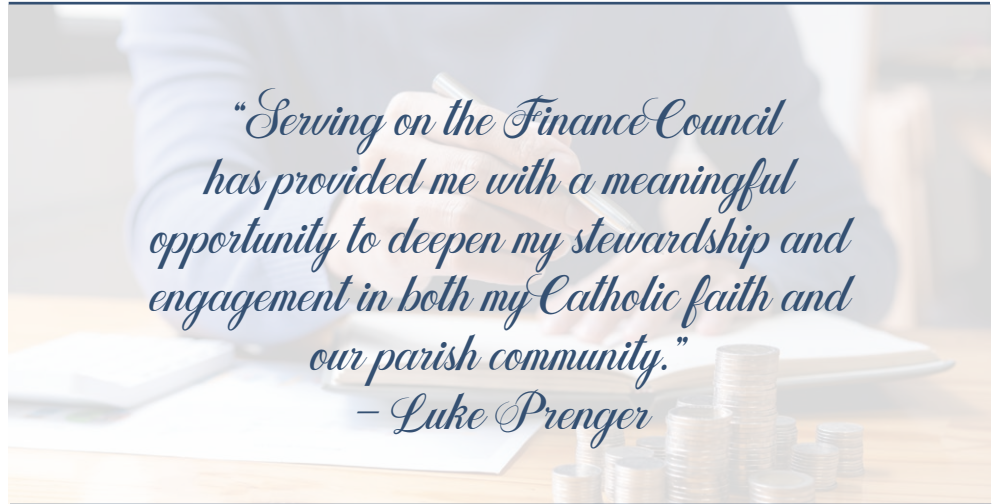
The Finance Council is not only helpful for parishes to have – it's required.

"It's actually Canon Law that a parish has a Finance Council," Jim says. "They promote the financial health of the parish, providing accountability."

The Finance Council is responsible for the discussion of budgets, debts, any capital expenditures, and anything regarding the financial needs of the parish. The Code of Canon Law states, "In each parish there is to be a finance council which is governed, in addition to universal law, by norms issued by the diocesan bishop" (537).

"Serving on the Finance Council has provided me with a meaningful opportunity to deepen my stewardship and engagement in both my Catholic faith and our parish community," Luke adds. "It has also allowed me to apply the skills I have developed over 17 years as a bank examiner and the past seven years working for Mid America Bank."

As the council members share their time and expertise, they are engaging in stewardship. Fr. Jones looks to appoint those



with experience and expertise to build a strong Finance Council. Their main role, however, is not to make final decisions.

"The Finance Council just works in an advisory capacity," Jim says. "The final decision is still up to the pastor. They make recommendations. Rarely does a pastor go against what the Finance Council recommends. We'll discuss major projects, budgeting, long-term and short-term goals. Any specific expenditure is up to the pastor."

The council meets quarterly, but the members communicate via email throughout the year.

"February is our budgeting month," Jim says. "We review the school budget, teacher contracts, and

day-to-day expenses of the school and parish."

While it may seem like all business, the group members enjoy what they do, and they love the faith community they serve.

"I truly enjoy collaborating with the other members as we assist Fr. Jones in the responsible administration of financial resources with which we're blessed," Luke says. "I'd also like to commend our Director of Finance, Jim Vignola, and Principal Gina Bailey for their outstanding work managing the day-to-day operations of the parish and school. Their dedication and professionalism make our work efficient and effective."

*Those interested in taking part in the Finance Council may note interest on the annual stewardship commitment card or email Jim Vignola at [jim.v@cathedraljc.org](mailto:jim.v@cathedraljc.org).*



A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

# *Living as* EASTER PEOPLE

Dear Parishioners,

The joy of Easter does not belong to a single day on the calendar. The Church gives us an entire season to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus and to let this mystery sink in. Easter proclaims that Christ has conquered sin and death, and that His victory is not a distant idea, but a living reality meant to shape our choices, our relationships, and our priorities.

Living as Easter people means allowing the truth of the Resurrection to guide our daily lives. The risen Christ calls us to live with hope rather than fear and with trust rather than anxiety. He reminds us that God is faithful, that grace is real, and that renewal is always possible, even when life feels heavy or uncertain.

Easter also teaches us that discipleship continues beyond the empty tomb. The Resurrection is not simply something we admire; it is something we receive and then live. When Christ rises, He sends His disciples outward with a mission, and He sends us as well — into our homes, our workplaces, and our communities — to reflect His love in practical ways.

This is where stewardship takes on its full meaning. Stewardship begins with gratitude, because everything we have is a gift from God. Our time, our abilities, our relationships, and our material resources are entrusted to us, not for ourselves alone, but for the good of others



and the mission of the Church.

The Easter season invites each of us to take an honest look at how we are living as stewards. Are we giving God our time through prayer and worship? Are we offering our talents in service, not only when it is convenient, but as a commitment of discipleship? Are we sharing our treasure generously and trustingly, confident that God provides and that the Church's work matters?

When stewardship becomes a way of life, parish life is strengthened. Ministries flourish, needs are met, and the Church becomes a visible sign of Christ's presence in the world. The risen Lord continues His work among us through ordinary acts of generosity, kindness, and faithfulness.

As we continue through this Easter season, may we live with grateful hearts and renewed purpose, allowing the joy of the Resurrection to shape who we are and how we serve.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Fr. Stephen Jones

# Cathedral of St. Joseph

## SIGN PROJECT SPREADS OF DIVINE MERCY FAR AND WIDE



*Chapel Dobbs is a student at Dayton University and delivered a Divine Mercy sign to their campus.*

Less than 100 years ago, Jesus Christ appeared to a humble Polish Nun (St. Faustina Kowalska) and gave her a special mission – to have an image painted according to what she saw and to include the words “Jesus, I trust in You,” and then to spread that message of mercy to the world. Thanks to the devotion and dedication of volunteers from St. Francis Borgia Parish in Washington, Mo., the beloved Divine Mercy image is spreading its message to the Jefferson City area and beyond.

For over 10 years, a group of parishioners from St. Francis Borgia has constructed frames, distributed framed pictures, yard signs, and even highway signs to spread the message of Divine Mercy. The recognizable white signs with the image of two rays radiating from Christ’s heart can be seen popping up across the state.

In Jefferson City, St. Joseph Cathedral Parish has been receiving a regular supply of yard signs from St. Francis Borgia for several years, selling over 120 signs to people in the Jefferson City area. Recently, the Knights of Columbus at the Cathedral had an idea to see how far they could spread the Divine Mercy message with these signs.

Representing the four cardinal directions, four volunteers were each given a sign to bring along with them on their personal travels. Equipped with this sign, Divine Mercy chaplet booklets, ordering information, and a parish newsletter and bulletin from the Cathedral, these travelers carried the message of Divine Mercy across many miles to give as gifts to other Catholic parishes or institutions. Rich and



*Tina Sellner meets with Jason Markowski, liturgy director/sacristan at St. Joseph in Salem, Ore.*

# READS POWERFUL MESSAGE BEYOND OUR CITY BORDERS

Kathy Anderson delivered a sign to St. Basil Catholic Church in South Haven, Mich.; Scott and Tina Sellner delivered a sign to St. Joseph Parish in Salem, Ore.; the Stephen and Delane Heath family delivered a sign to Our Lady of the Gulf in Gulf Shores, Ala.; and Chapel Dobbs brought a sign to Dayton University, where she is a student.

Christopher Pierce, one of the Knights who helped organize this project, explains the excitement of seeing these signs pop up in the community and beyond.

"It's a great way to show your faith," he says. "Since my kids are involved in sports, our family travels a lot, and from mid-Missouri to St. Louis, you see these signs. In my own work, I drive to many rural communities, and I see signs everywhere. It's incredible to see what one small community has done for the state."

Displaying the signs encourages conversations about the Divine Mercy and the Catholic faith, something the Knights hope will take place as the signs are noticed in their four respective locations.

"I put a sign in our own yard, and the neighbors asked where we got it," Christopher says. "I am happy to be Catholic and proud to display the sign. It's a powerful method of engagement and outreach."

Blessed by the strong presence of these Divine Mercy signs throughout the local area, the Cathedral community hopes to sow a few seeds across the country – trusting that this message of mercy and hope will continue to take root and grow wherever it is planted.

Jesus encouraged everyone to share the message of Divine Mercy, promising abundant blessings in return:

"Souls who spread the honor of My mercy I shield through their entire life as a tender mother her infant, and at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior" (Diary, 1075).

Simply sharing the Divine Mercy message brings protection and blessings from Jesus. For some, "a picture is worth a thousand words," and our parish is happy to help place the picture of Divine Mercy in as many front yards as possible.



*Rich and Kathy Anderson delivered a sign to St. Basil Catholic Church in South Haven, Mich.*



*Stephen and Delane Heath and their family delivered a sign to Our Lady of the Gulf in Gulf Shores, Ala., where they had the opportunity to meet with Fr. David Carruci.*

# Cathedral of St. Joseph

## *Celebrating the* **EASTER SEASON**

Easter Sunday falls this year on April 5. But even when the glorious day comes to a close and we soon look towards the springtime days of May, remember that Easter is far from over – the celebration of the greatest feast day of the Church year continues for the next 50 days.

On Easter Sunday, we celebrate Christ rising from the dead, following His gruesome passion and death. On that glorious Sunday – three days after He died – Christ fulfilled His promise, “Destroy this temple and I will rebuild it in three days” (Jn. 2:19) and the promises of the Old Covenant, “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers. They will strike at your head while you strike at their heel” (Gen. 3:15).

Through His resurrection, Jesus broke the chains of sin and death, opening for us the way to eternal life. Yet, His mission was not yet over. He was back with His disciples, showing them that what had been promised to their fathers had been fulfilled.

“Thus it is written that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance, for the forgiveness of sins, would be preached in his name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things” (Lk. 24:46-48).

Yet, again, there is still more.

After all, Jesus is not still walking the earth, showing us Himself, is He?

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to His Father’s right hand. That day falls on May 14 this year, but the Feast of the Ascension is a movable feast and will be celebrated this year on May 17. And 50 days after Easter, the Father sent His Spirit, just as Christ promised He would. And with that (the feast we now celebrate as Pentecost, which falls on May 24 this year), Christ’s salvific mission was accomplished, and it is with the celebration of that great feast that we conclude the Easter season – a season of joyful recognition of the salvation Christ won for us.

Having been beaten and killed for our sins, Christ rose from the dead, breaking the bonds of sin. Then, after He ascended to His rightful place in heavenly glory, the Lord sent the Spirit, and now, armed with the power of the Spirit, the Church serves as the sacrament of salvation on Earth – offering us sanctifying grace (a share in the life of Christ Himself) through the sacraments.

As you can see, the Easter season offers us a time to commemorate some of the most important events in the history of salvation. In fact, it can rightly be called the most important season of the Church year, for it is now – during these 50 days – that we celebrate the fruits of Christ’s sacrifice.

Today, though Christ has won the victory over sin, we are all still living in a tainted world. We still feel the effects of sin because we do not yet fully partake of the fruits of Christ’s victory. That we will only know when (and if) we, by the grace of God, enter eternal glory in the heavenly kingdom.

Let us all take the time this Easter season to thank God for the gift of salvation. Spend time reflecting on how much we have opened our hearts to the grace He pours upon us. May we all be more aware of the glory Christ has won for us, and, in so doing, willingly detach ourselves from the fruits of this world so that we may be more receptive to the fruits of His grace.



**MARY POPPINS, JR.**  
*April 17-19<sup>th</sup>*

Friday April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm  
Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00pm  
Sunday April 19<sup>th</sup> @ 2:00pm

*Presented by:*  
St. Joseph Cathedral School

**General admission tickets are \$10/adult and \$7/student and may be purchased in the school office or at the door.**

# PARISHIONERS LARRY AND MARIE WISKIRCHEN WORKING TO FOSTER DEVOTION TO DIVINE MERCY

## *Sharing an Amazing Gift with the Faithful*

Divine Mercy has been a part of Larry and Marie Wiskirchen's lives for about 25 years. Marie discovered St. Faustina Kowalska in 2000, the year she was canonized. She picked up a copy of her diary and took several months to read it.

"I realized the importance of the devotion that Jesus had given her, and I thought, 'This is such an amazing gift,' Marie says. "And the graces are so amazing that one can get by practicing the devotion and reciting the chaplet daily."

Marie and Larry wanted to make sure that when they came to the Cathedral, the devotion and celebration of the Feast of Divine Mercy continued. They had helped start the devotion at Mary Immaculate in Kirksville and have long felt a calling to spread the devotion. The celebration here at the Cathedral started in 2024. Confessions are heard on Good Friday, with a kickoff to the Novena. People pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for nine days and gather at the Cathedral on Divine Mercy Sunday to close

the chaplet, pray the Stations of the Cross, and enjoy ice cream sundaes – Divine Sundaes. About 125 to 150 people attend.

"It's been an amazing experience," Marie says. "We really enjoy the celebration afterward. It's become a great time for fellowship."

St. Faustina received some amazing promises from Jesus related to the Divine Mercy Chaplet. He told her, "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death." Also, for those who participate in the Divine Mercy celebration, "The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment."

On Divine Mercy Sunday, a person can receive a plenary indulgence, which removes all temporal punishment for sins already forgiven in confession. To receive it, one goes to Confession, within 20 days, receives Holy Communion, prays for the Holy Father's intentions, participates in Divine Mercy

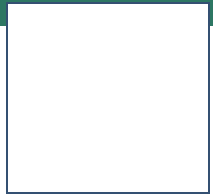
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# CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOSEPH

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## PARISHIONERS LARRY AND MARIE WISKIRCHEN WORKING TO FOSTER DEVOTION TO DIVINE MERCY *continued from page 7*

devotions or prays before the Blessed Sacrament, and is detached from all sin. You can also offer this indulgence for someone in purgatory.

Marie works as a secretary in the parish office. At 3 p.m. each day, the staff gathers to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Larry and Marie pray the prayer together often at home. She loves doing her part to spread the devotion to Divine Mercy.

"It really uplifts my spirit when we join for the celebration on Divine Mercy Sunday, and I see other parish members take part," Marie says. "I feel that Jesus must be smiling down on us from heaven when we answer His request that we do this."

Marie and the parish staff work to share with other parishes that people can join in the chaplet and celebration. They do this primarily through social media.

"We want to spread the word to as many people as we can about this devotion," Marie says.



*Watch the bulletin for information on the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration. Join in the Novena by starting a daily prayer of the chaplet on Good Friday.*