

St. Joseph Catholic Church Newsletter

Inside this newsletter:

Page 2 - SWATCH

-Fatima and the Rosary

Page 3 -St. Joseph and Fathers

Page 4 - The Sacred Heart of Jesus



Mt. De Sales Academy Baccalaureate

The month of a May was a busy month for Sacraments, school graduations, moving up celebrations, awards ceremonies for our students, and the end of school. The **Mt. De Sales Academy Baccalaureate** kicked off the busy month on Wednesday the 2nd with Bishop Gregory Hartmayer presiding at the event at St. Joseph's. The graduates went on to receive their diplomas the next night (Thursday the 3rd) at their **graduation** in front of a large and excited crowd at the Macon City Auditorium. Bishop Hartmayer returned to St. Joseph's on Friday night (May 4th) for **Confirmations** during which he challenged our Confirmandi to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, to keep the Faith, and to do the right thing even when others do not. The Mass for **First Communion** was held on Sunday, May 6th and brought to a completion many months of preparation and anticipation for our young children. We are most proud of these young people and their accomplishments and we continue to pray for them on their journeys.



*Commit
your work to
the Lord,
and your
plans will be
established.
Proverbs*



St. Joseph Catholic School 6th Grade Graduation

16:3



Our Lady of Fatima and the Rosary

May 13 marked the 101st anniversary of the first of six apparitions of the Blessed Mother to Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta, the shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. St. Joseph's Church celebrated this anniversary with a rosary prayed in the church at noon on Saturday, May 19th followed by a luncheon in the Social Hall. Taking the exhortations of Mary to heart, Bob Fenimore, one of the organizers of the event, desires to spread the message of the importance of praying the rosary. He will soon launch a new Rosary Ministry, challenging all St. Joseph's parishioners to pray the rosary every day. In the near future there will be sign-up sheets in the church and an opportunity to commit to praying the rosary daily. Please be on the lookout for announcements and news to come.

"The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin...If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors." – Pope Pius X

stjosephmacon.wordpress.com

S.W.A.T.C.H. - Sewing Women Are Touching Children's Hearts



Since their inception in 2008, the members of SWATCH have given of their time and talent at St. Joseph's by sewing handmade items for others. Some of the items they regularly sew include layette bags and clothing for Family Advancement Ministries, baby blankets for newborns in our parish, Baptismal bibs for babies that are baptized at St. Joseph and St. Peter Claver Churches, and "quillows" for Jay's HOPE, which is a ministry for children with cancer. At Christmastime, SWATCH sews over 125 pair of PJ bottoms and Christmas treat bags for FAM's Gift of Love. In the past, SWATCH has sewn items for the Maximillian Kolbe Center for Life, and they are presently sewing Smile Bags for Operation Smile. SWATCH has been a wonderful ministry and group that has helped numerous others by the talents of its members.

If you know how to sew and would like to use that God-given talent to serve in the SWATCH Ministry, the group meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Family Advancement Ministry building at 538 Orange Street from 1:30 - 4:30 pm. If you would like more information, please contact the ministry leader, Ann Shaw at (478) 960-3925 or email at annmarieshaw56@yahoo.com.



She seeks wool
and flax,
and works with
willing hands.
Proverbs 31:13

St. Joseph and Father's Day

The month of June, and Father's Day in particular, brings thoughts and prayers for our fathers and those who have served as fatherly figures for us. As we think of our fathers we also think of St. Joseph, the foster father of Jesus, the patron saint of fathers.

Here are a few things you might not know about St. Joseph:

1. Joseph has no recorded words in scripture.
2. He has two feast days on the liturgical calendar each year: the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19th and the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker on May 1st.
3. He is the patron saint of the Universal Church, and is often depicted holding St. Peter's Basilica in his hand.
4. When God speaks to St. Joseph in scripture, it takes place in his dreams.
5. The last time St. Joseph is mentioned in scripture is when Jesus was 12 years old and was found in the temple among the Teachers of the Law by Mary and Joseph. Tradition says that St. Joseph passed away sometime between that event and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry, which was around 18 years later. It is believed he was surrounded by Mary and Jesus at the time of his death, which has led the Church to recognize St. Joseph as the patron saint of a happy death.



Happy Father's Day to our fathers!

10 Ways to be a Great Dad

1. Respect Your Children's Mother
2. Spend Time With Your Children
3. Earn the Right to be Heard
4. Discipline with Love
5. Be a Role Model
6. Be a Teacher
7. Eat Together as a Family
8. Read to Your Children
9. Show Affection
10. Realize that a Father's Job is Never Done

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:4

Prayer for St. Joseph's Intercession

St. Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands. Kindly protect those who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labor and weariness. But amid the worries of material life your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you and with Mary, his tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone. Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done.

Pope John XXIII

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Every year around this time, we celebrate the solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and draw near to the tender mercy and forgiveness of the Lord. The heart is a symbol of the human center; our emotions, loves, passions, and desires. In the Gospels, Jesus' heart is moved with pity for the crowds (see Mt 9:36) and He tells us that He is gentle and humble of heart (Mt 11:29). The Sacred Heart of Jesus that began beating in the womb of the Blessed Virgin more than 2,000 years ago still beats today in the glorified humanity of the Risen Christ. And it will pulsate forever, pumping out the grace, mercy and life of God to all of humanity. In the Sacred Heart, we experience the overwhelming mercy of God and His infinite desire to be in relationship with us.

Over the centuries, many Christians developed harsh images of God and Jesus as fearsome judges, distant from human affairs, ready to impose punishment for moral failure. The Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints became the friendly, approachable intercessors who would go to God for us, pleading for sinful and erring souls. Jansenism, particularly prevalent in France in the 16th and 17th centuries, overemphasized the wrath of God, the unworthiness of human nature and fear as a response to God.

In a small town in France in 1673, a nun named Margaret Mary Alacoque, received visions and messages from Jesus concerning His Sacred Heart, telling her of the great love He has for mankind. In addition, He emphasized reception of Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month, Eucharistic adoration during a "Holy hour" on Thursdays, and the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart. She said that in her vision she was instructed to spend an hour every Thursday night to meditate on Jesus' Agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.



Jesus revealed to St. Margaret Mary His heart, burning with love and mercy for humanity. St. Margaret Mary shared Jesus' words with the world: "My divine Heart is so passionately fond of the human race and of you, in particular, that it cannot keep back the pent-up flames of its burning charity any longer. They must burst out through you and reveal my Heart to the world, so as to enrich mankind with my treasures." The Feast of the Sacred Heart is on Friday, June 8th.

The 12 Promises of Jesus to those who have a devotion to His Sacred Heart

- (1) "I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
- (2) I will establish peace in their homes.
- (3) I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
- (4) I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
- (5) I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
- (6) Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
- (7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
- (8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
- (9) I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
- 10) I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
- (11) Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
- (12) I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment."

An Offering to the Sacred Heart

My God, I offer You all my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings in union with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for the intentions for which He pleads and offers Himself in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, in thanksgiving for Your favors, in reparation for my sins, and in humble supplication for my temporal and eternal welfare, for the needs of our holy Mother the Church, for the conversion of sinners, and for the relief of the poor souls in purgatory. Amen