



St. Joseph Neier

Fr. Donald Henke, Pastor
June 15 - 16, 2019

Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 & 10:00 am
Confessions:
Saturday: 4:00 to 4:40 pm

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Rich's Cell: 636.283.8332

From your Pastor

Fr. Don's Last Homily at St. Joseph's Parish

St. Joseph Catholic Church – Neier
June 9, 2019

State of the Parish

The enduring memory that I have of St. Joseph's is the first memory I have of St. Joseph's. And that's of running into Susie Boschert on the sidewalk as I made my way over to the rectory to find out just what I was getting into from Fr. Kevin and Chris Block. Can you think of a better way to be welcomed to St. Joseph's than being greeted by Susie Boschert? And what I found, was that she was a pretty good barometer of what I've come to expect from St. Joseph's as a whole. Since this is the last official weekend that I'll be here at St. Joseph's, I thought it might be worthwhile to give a kind of State of the Parish homily: to review what we've achieved, and to consider some of the things that we still need to address going forward. So here goes...

Sacramentally, St. Joseph's has done well. First, we've had more than double the number of baptisms than we've had funerals. Thirty-four baptisms to only fifteen funerals – while we honor our deceased loved ones, that's a great ratio! A buddy of mine who's also been assigned to Kenrick is leaving his parish that *only* had funerals – like one every other week – we're blessed. Whenever anyone has asked me about St. Joseph's (after I've had to explain exactly where it is...) I always tell them that it's a vibrant parish with lots of young families and children. I don't know why, but people always seem surprised when I tell them that. "Really" they say! I don't know why that's such a revelation, but it is. The noise our young children make (especially at the 10:00 a.m. Mass), is great! As I've said before, I always say a quick prayer of thanks for them and their parents because they're new life for our community. And I hope that all of our young parents know just how welcome they and their children are at Mass each week – bring it on, what a great blessing you all are! Second, we've had forty-eight First Holy Communions and thirty-four Confirmations since the middle of 2016. The Sacraments are life and power for the soul. On this Pentecost Sunday we acknowledge the Holy Spirit as the source of that life and power. Cooperating with that grace, the better we can model our love of the Sacraments [*love*, not just obligation], the more authentically we'll hand on the faith to the next generation. Finally, we've witnessed ten weddings at St. Joseph's over the past three years, and that's fine too. Just as a reminder though, if there are any parishioners who've been married outside the Church, and would like to have their legal marriage Sacramentally validated, that's easy to arrange. It will enable them to invite Jesus into their union and be strengthened by His grace as they live their lives together.

In terms of improvements, there have been welcome additions to our church and buildings. The bell tower louvers and the hall have been repainted, the parking lot re-sealed, and the cemetery fence protected, the rectory porch completed, and the rectory office renovated – mostly. There's new landscaping in front of the church and the rectory. The 4-H organization has ensured that the new dumpster fence gets re-sealed each year and they've kept the various items on the grounds repainted as well. In church, our bells have been automated, sacred images have been added to our pillars and walls, we've gotten proper liturgical furniture, railings in the sanctuary, a media center in the vestibule, and new Christmas trees to celebrate the birth of the Savior. At the same time we've rescued articles of St. Joseph's patrimony and incorporated them in our worship. So, our big candlesticks that were dying a dusty death in the bell tower, now add solemnity to our Christmas and Easter seasons. The antependiums that once covered the front of the old high altar have been resized to fit the front of our current altar and ambo. I'm not sure how many years of life they have left in them, but they sure do add to the beauty of the sanctuary. The banner of the Lamb of God now backs-up the sanctuary lamp, the old St. Joseph's organ purchased in 1894 was re-gifted to us earlier this year, and the old ciborium that was stashed in a cupboard now holds the Eucharist at Mass again. All good things, and much better than all that stuff moldering in a drawer somewhere.

Liturgically, our 8:00 a.m. Mass has improved with the addition of a dedicated cantor and from the continued generosity of our organists and music ministers. They deserve our appreciation. Efforts to add more Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have met with some success, but more people willing to serve in these ministries would be helpful. Server training has produced excellent servers – and I know there are more boys and girls interested in serving at Mass this coming fall, so I think we’re in good shape there.

In terms of spiritual growth and development, various faith-sharing and faith-study programs have been offered over the past three years with some success. The groups have been uniformly enjoyable, educational, and uplifting. More opportunities are in the works for the fall. In addition, St. Joseph’s now prays the Our Lady of Perpetual Help devotion every Tuesday morning after Mass, the Stations of the Cross are a fixture on all Fridays of Lent, and Eucharistic Adoration is offered at least once a month. There’s a weekly Saturday evening Rosary, Thursday evening devotional Masses during Advent and Lent, as well expanded Confession times. Any improvement in this area, I think, would simply involve greater participation in these devotions.

As far as governance goes, the main goal I had was to expand the parish council, to have its members elected by the parish each year, and to regularize their term of office. A similar plan was intended for the finance council, but that’ll have to be addressed by Fr. Tom when he gets here. In any case, I’ve appreciated the guidance of the parish council and the finance council, they’ve offered insightful thoughts and largely kept me from saying and doing stupid things, and I am grateful to them.

Finally, the last thing I want to say concerns the financial status of the parish. When Archbishop Carlson asked me to move to the seminary and he promised a full-time pastor, he also asked if I thought St. Joseph’s was financially capable of supporting a full-time pastor. I thought about it for a moment, and then I told him that I believed we were, but that some adjustments would have to be made – and they’ll need to be. On the positive side, our fundraisers, keep us in the black – not by much – but in the black. We have a bit of savings, and we’ve set some aside for the upcoming tuckpointing of the church, but it’s not a comfortable cushion. Where we’re challenged is that without the benefit of events like Homecoming, for example, we’re not completely meeting our financial responsibilities as a parish. Basically, it’s all Fr. Kevin’s fault! I’ve decided to blame him [heh heh heh☺]. Really though, having him here for free, and not having to pay his salary and expenses for nearly two decades, was a luxury that kinda lulled us into a false sense of normalcy – we saved about three quarters of a million dollars in those years – around \$800,000 to be more accurate. And that’s allowed us to build really nice buildings, and they’re great, but things changed when he left – having a pastor became a real expense again. I’ve been on a 70-30 split between St. Joseph’s and Kenrick for the last three years, so that’s helped us a little, but Fr. Tom will be a 100% responsibility of St. Joseph’s. And that’s a concern. I’m not sure why (I’ve wondered these past years if it was me – if I’ve said or done something wrong to discourage support of the parish), but over the past decade the Sunday collection taken in less and less just about every year – and this year is following that same downward trend. While some might have believed that retiring the debt on the hall would leave plenty to run the parish with a new pastor, but what really happened was that the financial support that went into our new hall didn’t transfer to the running of the parish. Or it went into the proceeds of our major fundraisers which stay with those organizations and doesn’t go into the operating budget. So, that’s the situation. I don’t mean to be a nag. Since I’ve been here, we’ve been blessed by some really kind and generous folks who’ve made the bells, statues, landscaping, and tower louvres possible for us to enjoy. But more than individuals, what I’ve always been interested in fostering is a fuller parishioner buy-in for the support of our parish. To this point, then, we’ve been hanging in there, kinda limping along, but having a full-time pastor will be a big change for our parish, and I thought that before Fr. Tom gets here, it should be mentioned again.

In closing, let me say how much I’ve loved being here at St. Joseph’s and what a bitter thing it is for me to have to leave so soon. This is a fantastic parish and I’ll miss you all greatly. I don’t intend to be a stranger, you’ll see me around at the big events as I’m able. But as always, know that you’ll remain in my thoughts and especially my daily prayers and Mass intentions. Have a great Pentecost Sunday!

<i>Collection for</i>	<i>6/9/19</i>
Regular Offering Envelopes:	\$3696.00
Regular Offering Loose:	\$ 79.00

Total:	\$3775.00	Thank you for your generosity!
Catholic Communication Campaign \$200.00		

Special Collection

**The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette
will preach the annual parish mission appeal this weekend.**

Please welcome Fr. Anoop Manchirayil and your generosity is appreciated!

Having brought the fullness of Life to our world when He rose from the dead, Jesus sent his disciples to share this life with all of creation. *“They went forth and preached everywhere”* (Mk 16:20). The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette minister to people of every race, language, culture and way of life – beginning at the La Salette Shrine in France where our Blessed Mother appeared in 1846. Her final words, *“Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people,”* echo Jesus’ Gospel mandate. It is little wonder that the La Salette Congregation has always been mission orientated. When called upon by the Vatican to preach the Gospel in foreign lands, they eagerly responded. This spirit brought them to mission in 27 countries, especially among the poor in Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Haiti, India, Madagascar, Myanmar and the Philippines. With your cooperation, the Missionaries of La Salette can continue to provide spiritual and financial assistance to these mission countries as they bring God’s reconciling message to the poor.

Commentators and Lectors:

	<i>This Week</i>	<i>Next Week</i>
Saturday 5:00 pm	Anna Donner	Amber Gerlemann
Sunday 8:00 am	Vi Schroeder Betty Fink	Addison Wiskur
10:00 am	Lisa Bocklage	Patti Greife

Servers:

Saturday 5:00 pm	Alyson Fennessey Mark Straatmann	Alex & Adam Bolzenius	
Sunday 8:00 am	Rachel DeVore Allison Eckstein	Josh Straatmann Brooke Jacquin	10:00 am
Izzy & Joe Zagarri	Jenna & Ben Hammer		

Eucharistic Ministers:

Saturday 5:00 pm	Cheryl Voss Alberta Jacquin	Theresa Straatmann
	Jo Noelker	Tina & Theresa Brueggemann
Sunday 8:00 am	Janet & Frank Domijan	Diane Schmidt Jennifer Kissinger
	Karen Dierking	Jane Struckhoff
10:00 am	Kim & Wayne Brautigam	Tim & Denise Feth
	Jeff Baker	Joanne Bower

Mass Intentions: 6/17 – 6/23/19 [Communion Service-Mr. Keith Henderson]

Monday 6:30 am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Tuesday 6:30 am	COMMUNION SERVICE (P.H. Devotions after CS)
Wednesday 6:30 am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Thursday 6:30 am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Friday 6:30 am	COMMUNION SERVICE
Saturday 5:00 pm	Jerry & Joan Kloeppel “60 th ” Anniversary
Sunday 8:00 am	<i>The Parish Family of St. Joseph</i>
10:00 am	Ronald Salvino
	<i>Mary Osborne [Fr. Don on Vacation]</i>

Neighboring Events

- **Sunday, June 16th** **Breakfast at Washington K of C, serving 8 – 11:30 am**
- **June 20th to 23rd** **Annual Fatima Days at St. Clair, see flyer in back for scheduled events**

Employment Opportunities:

Immaculate Conception is seeking a part time preschool aide on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We are looking for a caring and nurturing person to work with the Lead Teacher helping with small groups, art projects and classroom activities. This position has the possibility of transitioning to a part time preschool teacher. Preferred candidate would have childcare experience and a practicing Catholic. Ten month position would start August 2019. Completion of the Protecting God's Children workshop is required prior to employment.

Please send resume:

Mrs. Becky Tucker, Principal, 6 West State Street, Union, MO 636-583-2641
tuckerb@icschoolunion.org

The cafeteria at St. Francis Borgia Regional High School is seeking a part time Fry Cook. Hours would be daily from 9:30-1:30. If your child attends SFBRHS, some tuition benefits would apply. If interested, please contact Lori Johnson at lori.johnson@borgia.com, or call 636-239-7871 ext 121.

St. Joseph Events

Assistance is Still Needed

Rich is still under restrictions. Light duties only and weight restrictions. He needs assistance with weed eating and other maintenance duties. Give him a call at 636.283.8332 and ask him what he would like you to do!

Parish Prayer List: *Please review and call the office for any changes.*

Thank You!

The Sick of the Parish who need your prayers

<i>Anna Marie Brueggemann</i>	<i>Ryan Elbert</i>	<i>Chris Arand</i>	<i>Olivia Jasper</i>
<i>Cynthia Faust</i>	<i>Karen Waters</i>		
<i>Zachery Gossage</i>	<i>Sheri Zambruski</i>	<i>Special Intention II</i>	<i>Henry Tobben</i>
<i>Shirley Beckman</i>	<i>Jacob McMullin</i>	<i>Christine Grus</i>	
<i>Julie Crump</i>	<i>Bill Feth</i>		
<i>Bill Greife</i>	<i>Regina Lause</i>	<i>Andrew Hellebusch</i>	
<i>Brandon Huels</i>	<i>Carol Hammer</i>	<i>Edward Henke</i>	
<i>Betty & Lawrence Bean</i>	<i>Jean Oldani</i>	<i>Ben Block</i>	
	<i>Marge Hankins</i>		

Pray for our Parishioners, Matthew Blankenship, Taylor Donner, Jamie Brueggemann Murphy, Michael Murphy & Blake Van Leer serving in the Armed Forces

