

STEWARDSHIP IN SEPTEMBER

We Are St. Joseph We Love St. Joseph

In this *Stewardship in September* we hear from fellow Catholics who love our parish. I invite you to read, to reflect, to remember what you love about your Catholic faith and your Catholic way of life.

Here at St. Joseph we strive to witness what we believe in the community in which we live. To practice and participate actively in the reception of the graces of the sacraments. To contribute our time and energy to the many programs and activities which make our faith community alive and vibrant. To help our parish grow and prosper as a living witness of the Catholic faith.

We Are St. Joseph.

We Love St. Joseph.

We give thanks to God for our St. Joseph Family.

Shalom,
Fr. Brendan



I love St. Joseph Parish because . . .

I'm invested in St. Joseph Parish because . . .

I share my time and talent with St. Joseph Parish in these ways . . .

I love St. Joseph's because I am supported by and privileged to support people who want to know, love and commit their lives to Jesus. *Randy Desrochers*

I love St. Joseph Parish because we have a very warm, caring and welcoming parish. I give to St. Joseph Parish because we do so much good in and around our diocese. I invest in St. Joseph Parish because my husband and I have very strong feelings for our parish. *Kathy Hirth*

I love St. Joseph Church as a place to worship our Lord and the church mission to care for the poor and needy in our community through all our charitable acts. *Dan Cutright*

I love St. Joseph's Parish because there are so many opportunities to live your faith. *Linda Cook*

I love St. Joseph Parish because it provides opportunities for our spiritual nourishment, a sense of caring, involved community and in the past, a place for our children to grow in God's love and in appreciation of their Catholic faith. *Ina Germain*

We love St. Joseph Parish because for 25 years we have experienced friendship, support and spiritual growth for our family. *Carol & Jeff Littleton*

I love St. Joseph Parish, because God has challenged me to apply the Word of God in my life. I have grown spiritually and emotionally. The Music Ministry brings life to the Celebration of the Mass. The sermons and teachings have helped me grow and deal with life's daily situations. *Diana Gignac*

I love St. Joseph Parish because of the warm and welcoming nature of the people in this parish community. I'm invested in St. Joseph Parish because it is an important part of the life of our family. Those things are where our money goes. I share my time and talents with St. Joseph parish in these ways ...wherever there is the need, because maintaining the vitality of this parish takes more than money to maintain the two above. *Kurt Assenmacher*

I am invested in St. Joe's because I have met others who have encouraged me to grow in my faith and I, in turn, want to share my love of our faith with others through bible studies, ministries and, yes, even committees and councils. *Susan Hungerford*

We belong to St. Joseph Church because we want to show our support for what it stands for. St. Joe's is our community and we have many friends who belong. It keeps us grounded in a world that seems to be running out of control. Like our grandchildren say when they are at our church "It's very nice here." We want to help keep it growing. *Ray and Judy Faitel*

I share my time and talents with St. Joseph Parish in these ways: I am a Eucharistic Minister and funeral Altar Server. I help deliver Lenten Food Drive, help sort Giving Tree gifts and have done projects that Fr. Brendan has asked me to do. I do this because as a member of this parish it is my duty and pleasure to help whenever and however I am able. *Lee Hirth*

I love St. Joseph Parish because it has been a welcoming community since the first day I stepped through the front doors of the Village Church. I found a spirit of love and friendship. The interior presented a sense of praise to God and the involvement of the Church Community to show its commitment. We have found a home.

I am invested in St. Joseph Parish because the church community has invested its heart and soul in me. Each day I experience a feeling of having an opportunity to return the favor. The needs of the church community are many, and the workers are few. The parishioners are asking for help and guidance. We that have received so much need to share what we have received.

I share my time and talents with St. Joseph in these ways: I serve as a Hospitality Minister; I have been a member of Christ Renews His Parish groups and Building the Brotherhood of Christ. I am an Altar Server for Funeral Masses. I help teach 3rd grade religious education. I have volunteered for church clean-up. I have been involved in the activities that promote the Parish Festival. I have provided the Holy Eucharist for the homebound. I help with Sunday Collections. I volunteer to work at St Leo's Soup Kitchen. Each Day I pray for the Holy Church, its leaders and the Church Community. *Bill Eaton*

Amongst all the noise and toil of life, St. Joseph is like a deep and endless well of calm and steadfast faith. I cherish every moment of it and take strength from seeing God in the faces of my fellow parishioners and the good that they do. *Paul Makidon*

I love St. Joseph Parish because it is my refuge, my rock, my center for connecting with Jesus. I love the people, the pastor, the deacons, the buildings. I love how I feel when I enter from the Gathering Space into the worship space. I love that I can receive Jesus at St. Joseph as often as I want. St. Joseph is my parish. I serve St. Joseph by serving on the Pastoral Council, in this my third year as recording secretary. I serve on the Adult Education Formation Commission, and have for three years. I am on the RCIA team, and have been since my own RCIA experience in 2010. I am a 2nd grade catechist and love serving the young of our parish who will receive First Communion at the end of each school year. I have taken several bible study classes at St. Joseph and plan to continue doing so. I served on the 175th Anniversary team, and wrote the history of the parish segments for the bulletin and for the pictorial directory. *Neta O'Brien*

We love St. Joseph Parish because of Father Brendon. We love St. Joseph Parish because of the friendly and welcoming people. *Bert and Christie Wagner*

I participate at St Joseph Parish (that includes the parishioners, pastor, deacons and staff) because they are like extended loving family members who are interested and care about its members and willing to help out with warm and welcoming arms. *Gerri ProOchaska*

I love St. Joseph's Parish because through it, the Holy Spirit brought me back to the faith I had lost. *Felix Martinez*

I invest in St. Joseph's Parish because it is a remarkable community of faithful, God-loving, and generously caring people who simply do good things. *Eileen Slank*

Life pulls us in so many directions and often away from God and from a feeling of security and peace. I have met friends at St. Joseph Parish who have helped me to find my way back to a sense of peace and joy. Sunday Mass worship is one of these times where I experience this. But there are other times too-our summer Parish Festival, one day retreats offered throughout the year with other men and women where we enjoy great food and wonderful faith sharing. I like being able to just sit and listen to others and share my own experiences if I choose. *Ellen Hennessy*

I love St. Joseph Parish because it has helped me to form relationships with people who care about their faith and their family as much as I do. They encourage me in my faith and help me to grow spiritually. *Debbie Gesell*

I share my time and talents with St. Joseph Parish in these ways. I believe that God has been very good to me all of my life. He helped me get through some troubling times and helped me find a very good husband to live my life with. If that was not enough, God blessed me with 3 great children and 4 great grandchildren. With all of these gifts, I owe God not only all of my Love but everything I can do to share his love with others. So I signed up to be a Hospitality Minister. (Years ago, I remember my husband's aunt, who had attended one church for probably over 20 years, moved and started to attend a new church. After only attending the church 2 or 3 times, she was upset that no one said "Hi" to her or "Welcomed" her to the church.) Thus, I love greeting people as they arrive at our church. I want them to feel "welcomed and a part of our parish" as soon as they enter our church doors.

I also signed up to be a Reader. I like to read the Bible but do not always understand what it says. But the workbook we use is a big help to me. It allows me to better understand what the bible passage is saying. I think that helps me read the "readings" with a bit of understanding that I hope comes out as I read to our parishioners. But I think what I enjoy most is teaching the 1st grade students about God and his love for not only them but for everyone. Their minds are so young and open to new ideas. There are times when I do not think they are listening to what I am teaching. Then the next week, we start each class with a series of questions based on the previous week's class. And to my surprise they usually can answer all of the questions. I get so excited when I feel that they understand an idea that I am trying to get across. I also enjoy trying to create projects that will help them remember what I am teaching them. Teaching them their prayers is sometimes difficult. But when they learn a prayer you can see the feeling of accomplishment on their face. Then they begin to volunteer to lead the class in one of the prayers. *Aurora Dickson*

I love St. Joseph Parish because it represents a faithful Catholic Commitment to the Dexter community from generation to generation dating back to the nineteenth century. St. Joseph's adds to the overall goodness that people have become accustomed to in the American Midwest. *David A. Galiyas*

We recently moved to Dexter, attended Mass the first Sunday at St. Joseph, and the next day we joined the parish. Why? St. Joseph's, a true Christian community, impressed, enfolded, and spoke to our hearts and spirits. Living Vatican II, this community recognizes new parishioners with a welcome meal, marriage of its congregants by annually honoring couples' anniversaries, and baptisms at Mass, thus celebrating new life and confirming hope for the future. The Spirit imbues a sense of love and energy in each and every ministry. St. Joe's is of the people, by the people, for the people. We love our parish. Every healthy community experiences participation, involvement, contribution. These actions provide for a portion of the personality, if you will, of the organization. St. Joseph's personality exudes Love.

In another life, I involved myself as an organist and choirmaster. Now, I spend twenty minutes a day praying for and with the community in the Ministers of Praise, spending some time preparing for the Sunday readings as a lector (not a demanding schedule), and as a Eucharistic Minister for Sundays and funerals (where I learned to wash dishes). I chose these ministries, but ministries abound as the need is always great. For me, these three satisfy and give me a sense of belonging, knowing I've contributed to the life and Love of St. Joseph Parish. *Richard E. Grzeskowiak*

I've been a member of St. Joe's for 68 years- my numerous volunteering began when our children were here in school, helping the IHM Sisters. In 2001, my husband had 2 major strokes following heart bypass surgery, my activities were limited to knitting prayer shawls, calling for funeral lunches and being a minister of praise. He has passed away, now I attend daily Mass, take Communion to the homebound, serve as Hospitality Minister at Mass, serve on the Caritas Committee, am a Minister of Praise, and work on the Festival. Mass at St. Joe's is spiritual and beautiful, excellent sermons and great music. I feel it is a privilege to belong to St. Joe's, a warm and welcoming church. *Gladys Dettling*

I love St. Joseph Parish because we are all called to be a community of God, to live the Word. I choose to actively live this Word through the work I do in this Parish. Whether teaching sacraments to 2nd graders, serving on committees, or just being warm and welcoming to people who walk through our doors, I am called to serve the Lord in whatever way He asks. I love St. Joseph Parish, because that's what we do here; we serve the Lord as a community. *Mary Pawloski*

A PRAYER FOR STEWARDSHIP

THANK YOU LORD FOR THE GIFT OF SKILLS AND TALENTS
YOU HAVE PROVIDED TO ME.

YOU HAVE ENTRUSTED ME WITH THESE SKILLS AND TALENTS,
WHICH MAKES ME ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEM.

EACH ONE OF US IS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT WE DO WITH
OUR TIME, OUR TALENT, AND OUR FINANCES.

AS GOOD CHRISTIAN STEWARDS, WE ARE RESPONSIBLE
TO SHARE WHAT WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN WITH OTHERS.

ALMSGIVING PROVIDES EACH ONE OF US THE OPPORTUNITY
TO SHARE WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY OURS, WITH OTHERS.

BY GIVING FROM THE HEART, WE GAIN INFINITELY
MORE THAN WE HAVE GIVEN AWAY.

PRAYER, SELF-DENIAL, AND SACRIFICIAL GIVING
ARE THE ESSENCE OF WHAT STEWARDSHIP IS ALL ABOUT.

Bob Heller, Finance Council