

Pastor's Note

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In sports there is such a thing called "bench warmers." These are players who suit up for the game but never get into the action. They mostly watch from the bench.

In church there are those who could be called "pew warmers." These are good folk who attend Mass regularly, but their involvement does not go beyond Mass attendance. They suit up (Baptism), come to the game (Mass), but that is as far as it goes.

The booklet you have here is your opportunity to "get into the game." It is a chance to become more active in the life of the parish both at Mass and outside of Mass. Maybe this is the moment when you feel that warming the pew is not enough. This could be the moment in which you want to commit more of your time and talent to the life and ministry of this community of faith, called St. Joseph Church.

This stewardship booklet suggests a number of ways in which you can not only suit up but also become part of the action. Could it be your time to answer "Here I am, Lord!"?

Get in the game. We need you. We welcome you!

Fr. Bob

Here I am, Lord!

St. Joseph Catholic Church Stewardship Booklet

Waycross, Georgia

September 2014

Stewardship Prayer

Lord God, You alone are the source of every good gift,
everything we have comes from you.

In You we live and move and have our being.

We praise You, we thank You for everything we have,
everything we do is Your gift.

Fill our hearts and minds with a spirit of generosity
so that together we shall become

a community of faith, a parish family, a caring people.

In Christ Jesus Your only Son, who gave Himself up for us,
we commit ourselves to be responsible stewards of the gifts entrusted
to us,

to share with Your people,
our time, talent and our material gifts as a sign of our thanks.

Amen.

Liturgy

The heart of Catholic Stewardship is the “work of the people,” the ancient definition of “liturgy” or worship. This is our sacred encounter with God as a community of faith.

Liturgy Commission is part of the Pastoral Council, oversees the various liturgical ministries, and is involved in planning special parish liturgies. The commission meets regularly to coordinate all liturgical efforts, including art and environment in the church. The commission is comprised of representatives from different liturgical ministries, the clergy and appropriate staff. Chairperson: Margaret Milkas (912-288-7166/ margaretmilkas64@gmail.com) Hispanic contact: Maria Contreras (387-5234/ maria_contreras908@hotmail.com)

Altar Servers: This ministry calls boys and girls as well as men and women, who have received First communion, to prepare to serve God at Mass. Altar Servers must possess the maturity and reverence necessary to carry out and commit to the duties of this ministry. Training is provided at the beginning of each school year, with a refresher training held in the spring. English contact: Deacon Ron Milkas (912-288-7156/ milkas02@gmail.com)

Choirs & Musicians: The St. Joseph Choir serves the 6:00 pm Mass on Saturday, the 10:30 am Mass on Sunday, plus special liturgical events. Anyone who can sing and/or play an instrument is welcome. Practice is Tuesday 6-7 pm, Saturday 4:30-5:30 pm, and Sunday 9-10 pm. Contact organist Mervyn Humphreys (285-2757/ fmr_mervyn47@yahoo.com)

The Hispanic Folk Choir (Coro Hispano) leads the music for the 6 pm Spanish Mass on Sunday. Practice is held Sunday 4:45-5:45 pm. More voices are welcome! Contact Ramon Villa and Lucila Diaz (912-288-9834)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are appointed by the Bishop and serve under a pastor's direction. They distribute Holy Communion at Mass, bring the Eucharist to the sick, and help set-up and clean up after Mass. Any confirmed Catholic who is in sacramental unity with the church may apply for this ministry. All must be selected by the Pastor on behalf of the Bishop. Initial training and periodic workshops are required. Contact Kelly Cahill, our parish secretary (283-7700/ sjcwaycross@att.net)

Lectors: Lectors proclaim the Word at Liturgy. Lectors must be good readers and have strong voices. Any confirmed member of the parish may audition to be a lector. Lectors are trained initially, must attend yearly workshops, and must spend time preparing the readings. English contact: Kelly Cahill, our parish secretary (283-7700/ sjcwaycross@att.net) Hispanic contact: Lucy Rios (912-282-6724/ lucyrios1976@gmail.com)

Prayer and Rosary Groups: May and October are our Rosary months when we are committed to praying the rosary as a parish. There other times as well when parishioners may desire this devotion. Contact Jason Strickland 912-387-6781 jason@jason.com.mx

Sacristan: The care of the altar, the sanctuary, and its environment, is a meticulous art. For years this ministry has been lead by Ann Johnson, and recently with a Hispanic Assistant, Diana Santos. Contact Ann Johnson (285-8056)

St. Joseph Novena: A designated family that regularly participates at each of the weekend Masses (Saturday 6 PM, Sunday 10:30 AM and 6 PM Hispanic) will be invited to pray for the parish every week. A picture of St. Joseph and Jesus along with a copy of the St. Joseph Novena will be taken home and used at least once to pray for the parish through the intercession of St. Joseph. Initially, we need an anchor/ leader for each of the weekend Masses, as well as people who would like to pray and take a turn with their families.

Ushers/Greeters: The mission of the usher is to provide a welcoming environment for all who come together for prayer in God's House, including opening up the doors, greeting all who enter, taking up the collection, and passing out bulletins. We need more people to help, not just men, but anyone in their junior year of high school, 16 or older is invited to share in this liturgical ministry of hospitality. English contact: Lee Tipps (449-9519) Hispanic contact: Vicente Rodas and Cenovio Rodas (912-670-1673)

Word / Education

Faith Formation is a broad but essential umbrella for the on-going nurture of faith for people of every age in every Catholic parish, from womb to tomb.

Adult Education/Bible Study A group meets on Wednesday mornings at 10am. They choose a bible study book and take it chapter by chapter using the bible as the basis. Anyone is invited to participate. Each person purchases their own book. There are, at present, eight who meet faithfully each Wednesday Morning. The

class usually lasts an hour and a half. Contact Kathy Odam (912-288-7338/ klspodam@gmail.com)

PRE: Parish Religious Education

The Parish Religious Education program aims to help children to know Jesus through the sacraments and through the teaching of the faith. PRE is available for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. Students in 2nd grade receive First Holy Communion. Confirmation is typically received in 8th or 9th grade. Classes are on Sunday mornings from 9-10:15 am, September-May. Contact Lacey Gruver, Coordinator of Religious Education (CRE) (285-1550/ lacey_gruver@yahoo.com)

Catechists: Catechists: To be a Catechist is to echo the faith from ones heart to another's. Trained catechists and class aids are needed to fulfill this vital ministry. Parents and godparents are included in this effort as the God-given catechists at home. The PRE Handbook is printed for them as well as the official Sunday PRE Catechists. Everyone has a role to play in faith formation in the parish family, but catechists are the leaven. Please contact Lacey Gruver CRE, (285-1550/ Lacey_gruver@yahoo.com)

Vacation Bible School: A fun-filled week for children ages 5-12. They enjoy Bible Stories, crafts, games, singing and dancing, food and fellowship. Adults and teens are needed to help decorate, serve food, clean up after lunch, and take down decorations. Donations of food and drinks for the kids and volunteers are always welcomed. VBS is usually scheduled for one week in mid-June, and runs from 9am -1 pm. If interested in leading Vacation Bible School, please contact Lacey Gruver CRE, (285-1550/ lacey_gruver@yahoo.com)

Easter Egg Hunt: We need volunteers to help with the Easter Egg Hunt after the 10:30am Mass on Easter Sunday. We stuff eggs with candy a few days before, "hide" the eggs before Mass and give prizes to children. Donations are needed for candy and prizes. If interested in organizing and leading our annual Easter egg hunt, please contact Lacey Gruver CRE, (285-1550/ lacey_gruver@yahoo.com)

Christmas Pageant: We need volunteers to help with a children's Christmas pageant. We have 3 or 4 practices in the month or so prior to Christmas. We need people to help with practice, costumes, stage direction, and supervising children before the presentation. If interested in leading the annual Christmas Pageant please contact Lacey Gruver CRE, (285-1550/ lacey_gruver@yahoo.com)

RCIA : The Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults

RCIA is where we make adult "baby Catholics" (17 or older). Some have never been baptized, some were baptized in other churches, some are fallen away Catholics, but all are people hungry for fervent faith in Jesus and his body, the

church. This faith formation experience works for newcomers and cradle Catholics. Check it out!

RCIA in English: This process is the school of discipleship for forming Catholic believers. From August to May we meet on Tuesday nights, 7:15pm – 9:00pm, in the parish hall. Contact Fr. Bob Cushing (478-284-5235/ frbobcushing@hotmail.com)

Hispanic RCIA: Dr. Victor Aranda leads members of the Hispanic community into deeper inquiry of faith to be found in the Catholic Church. Those adults who missed Confirmation or First Communion are not lost to us. There is a new beginning for adult faith the class meets on Friday nights at 7:00pm in the Adult Education classroom. Contact: Dr. Victor Aranda (287-1851).

RCIA Team: The RCIA Team consists of those who work as catechists and **sponsors** for the RCIA candidates and assist, as fellow pilgrims, on the journey of faith. Interested in serving as a companion for the journey of a candidate for RCIA? Contact Dr. Tammy Theologus (912-282-0338/ tammytheologus@gmail.com) or Nelda Ballagh (285-7796/ nballagh@mediastreamus.net)

Youth Group

The St. Joseph Youth Group meets on Sunday afternoons from 4-5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. The Youth Group is available for ages 13-20. Fresh, energetic volunteers are needed to help us as we provide guidance, chaperones and direction for our Parish's youth. We get together for game nights, retreats, take trips together, help deliver Thanksgiving baskets, provide service in the parish, etc. Contact: Loretta Coar (912-390-9116/ lcoar@ware.k12.ga.us)

Parish Life Commission

Our parish family is constantly growing and extending itself through hospitality to welcome friend and stranger into the life of our community. This Commission is new with the new pastoral council and is seeking creative cooperation from all groups to link volunteers with the various ministries within St. Joseph's parish.

Bilingual Translator Resource

We are looking for men and women, teenagers among them, who are interested in serving the community as translators, becoming "bridge-people" to making communications easier and relationships more fun in the parish at Mass, PRE Registration and during Religious Education Sessions when needed. If you would like to assist in this effort because you have some worthy English-Spanish translation skills, please let Fr. Bob Cushing (478-284-5235/ frbobcushing@hotmail.com), Lacey Gruver (285-1550/ lacey_gruver@yahoo.com), or Kelly Cahill our parish secretary (283-7700/ sjcwaycross@att.net) know of your openness to this ministry for the parish.

CCW, the Council of Catholic Women

St. Joseph's Council of Catholic Women meets once a month during the school year. They support the PRE program with perfect attendance awards for students, contribute monthly to Loaves and Fishes, and serve special meals and receptions. Their big fundraiser, the Azalea Festival, is held the first Saturday in March each year. With the Knights of Columbus, they creatively serve the parish. Contact: Maryann Dixon (283-0316/ mdixon@mediastreamus.net)

Hispanic Ministry

This *ad hoc* group meets regularly with the pastor to take the pulse of pastoral needs in the Hispanic community, to plan events and to extend pastoral care in a disciplined fashion. Contact Maria Contreras (912-387-5234/ maria_contreras908@hotmail.com)

Knights of Columbus (K of C)

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, Fraternal and Service organization. In their 25th year at our parish, the Knights meet twice a month at Scott's Hall, located behind St. Joseph's church. The Knights sponsor many projects and activities (serve PRE breakfast, make wheelchair ramps, support seminarians and Loaves & Fishes, etc). The Knights are an active Pro-Life organization. Catholic men 18 years of age and older are invited. Grand Knight: John Pfaff (912-816-0334/ john.pfaff@edwardjones.com)

Parish Pictorial Directory

The Parish is looking for several people to lead the effort to coordinate our next Parish Pictorial Directory. This requires some lobbying in the parish foyer to register folks for their appointments and much telephone time to reach out to our people and coordinate the effort. Also working with the professional photographers and being the liaison for the parish. If interested in leading or assisting with this endeavor, please contact Fr. Bob Cushing (478-284-5235/ frbobcushing@hotmail.com), or Kelly Cahill, our parish secretary (283-7700/ sjcwaycross@att.net)

Table Fellowship

The ministry of Jesus flows from the table of fellowship. As Catholics we participate in Eucharist and table fellowship. Parish-wide potluck suppers are held once a month and other meals are held periodically. Everyone is invited to attend, enjoy the fellowship, and to help set up and clean up. Like praying together, this is also a critical experience of grace and Christ in a Catholic parish. Those interested in organizing regularly occurring parish suppers/lunches, please contact Father Bob Cushing (478-284-5235 / frbobcushing@hotmail.com)

Welcoming Visitors and New Parishioners

If you are enthusiastic about new members and visitors joining us at St. Joseph's parish, please contact Fr. Bob Cushing (478-284-5235/ frbobcushing@hotmail.com). Warm smiles, firm handshakes, and jars of pecans are always appreciated by our visitors. Our Ushers are often the first to do this, but we would like someone to help us develop a welcome packet of goodies for the newcomer. Interested?

Wise Angels

This is a new ministry to provide social and spirit filled fellowship opportunities for our senior parishioners. If you would like to be involved in the fun and fellowship contact Jim and Louise Craig (284-1751/ jhcldc@att.net)

Service

A Catholic parish that reaches out to the poor and needy is fulfilling the command of Jesus to live the Eucharist. Here are a few ways that we can do this:

Bereavement Ministry

In Christ's love we reach out to the families of deceased parishioners with cards of sympathy and occasional cards of remembrance. We also share materials about the process of grief. If you wish to help, or you know someone in need, contact: Trisha Pape (912-282-0042).

Bereavement- Funeral Meals

A 'Resurrection Dinner' after a funeral can be a most consoling experience of sharing nurture and table fellowship so that we can renew the bonds of affection and friendship that have sustained us in life through death to a new beginning. A telephone tree via members of the CCW extends pastoral care and food and drink for a sufficient home cooked meal in the Parish Hall or at the home of a family. To help, contact Beverly DeLoach (449-5031/cell 912-288-4428)

Loaves and Fishes

Loaves and Fishes is our parish outreach ministry, helping to address the food, clothing and financial needs of the poor in our community. This ministry was established in 1985 and is staffed by volunteers from the parish. This ministry is an excellent means of stewardship, sharing our time, talent and treasure. Loaves and Fishes is always in need of food, clothing, and money. We are deeply grateful to all those who generously support this ministry.

Clients requesting financial help are required to call the outreach number (283-5221) on the first Monday morning of the month. Appointments for the month are made from the list based on perceived need, whether the individual or family has been helped previously, and whether funds are available.

No appointment is necessary for food and clothing assistance. Interviews to discern and assess appropriate needs are done on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30am in the Loaves and Fishes building next to the church office.

For more information contact: Linda Booker (285-9490/
lhb@mediastreamus.net)

Pro-Life Services

If you are interested in supporting, organizing or leading Pro-Life activities, please contact Father Bob Cushing. (478-284-5235/ frbobcushing@hotmail.com)

Rachel's Vineyard

Rachel's Vineyard, a post abortion healing retreat, is a beautiful opportunity for any woman, man, or family member who is struggling with the emotional, spiritual or physiological pain of abortion to find healing. This is a ministry of the diocese of Savannah. For additional information visit the website at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

All calls and inquiries are strictly confidential. Come and be restored. Contact: Stephanie May (912-201-4059/ scmay@diosav.org)

Sunshine Ministry

This team reaches out to encourage members of our community who are in poor health, hospitalized, or are simply in need of cheer. If you would like to be a ray of sunshine or if you know someone who needs cheering, please contact Barbara Miller (912-337-3385/ btmiller@mediastreamus.net).

Visiting Prisoners

The mission of this ministry is to reach out spiritually to men in prison to share the Good News of the Gospel and sacraments. Men (and women) are invited to share in this ministry. Visits are made to Coffey County Corrections in Nichols, Georgia. Contact: Lee Tipps (449-9519/ deborahtipps@yahoo.com) and Mary Tirrell (912-590-7644); Ware County State Prison: Fr. Bob Cushing (478-284-5235 / frbobcushing@hotmail.com)

Visiting Shut-ins and the Sick

When parishioners are ill, homebound, in nursing homes, shut-in, or unable to attend Mass, we extend the concern and care of the parish to them. We need Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to bring the Eucharist to these parishioners. Please contact Kelly Cahill, our parish secretary (283-7700/ sjcwaycross@att.net)

Administration / Stewardship

The church is the assembly or gathering of the People of God. But no church can function without hands-on organization. Here are some ways we share responsibility for our parish.

Buildings and Grounds Crew

The large parish plant requires care by all who use it. A handful of zealots for the beauty of God's House manage this effort, cutting grass, trimming bushes, changing light bulbs, making repairs, etc. If you want to be on the team contact: Joe Woodruff (285-7291/ c912-337-5917/ jwoodruff@mediastreamus.net) or Truman Dixon (283-0316/ mdixon@mediastreamus.net) or Hispanic contact: Juan Lopez (912-670-8898)

Computer Skills

The parish needs someone who is available to assist us with various computer problems and set-ups. If you can assist these efforts, please contact Kelly Cahill, our parish secretary (283-7700/ sjcwaycross@att.net) or our Pastor, Fr. Bob Cushing (478-284-5235/ frbobcushing@hotmail.com)

Finance Committee

Finance Council is composed of three to seven members who each serve a three year term. This council works in conjunction with our parish priest to set budgets and financial plans to ensure a stable and productive parish life. Contact: David Barefield (912-281-0927/ david@nationalcap.net)

Parish Pastoral Council

The Pastoral Council exists to enable the mission of the parish in discerning and acting on parish matters; from long-range and immediate goals, social liturgical and apostolic programs, maintenance of the parish plant, Christian formation and outreach. The council fosters parish unity, coordinates activities, provides a forum for dialogue, and invites the participation of as many parishioners as possible into the spiritual and apostolic life. Parish Council Chair: Aaron Harwood (912-282-2119/ aharwood1982@gmail.com) Hispanic contacts: Maria Contreras (912-387-5234/ maria_contreras908@hotmail.com) and Juan Lopez (912-670-8898)

Rectory and Office Housekeeping (*Los Tornados Blancos*)

A handful of dedicated Hispanic women take care of the office and rectory once a week. This is a classic example of the stewardship of time and talent for the glory of God. Contact: Maria Contreras (912-387-5234/ maria_contreras908@hotmail.com)

Virtus (Child Protection and Safe Environment)

Caring for our children is everybody's business but all those who come into immediate contact with our children through PRE, youth group activities, as Ushers or Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are required to attend a Virtus class to know the protocols for the safety of all involved. The parish will supply this class regularly for those who need it. The Virtus Team: Dr. Tammy Theologus, Training

Facilitator (912-282-0338/ tammytheologus@gmail.com) and Ken Beck, Archivist (449-4590/ kwbeck@vivianbeck.com) Diocese of Savannah, Office for the Protection of Children and Young People. Call 1-888-357-5330 for assistance and reporting. See: <http://diosav.org/chilyouthprotection> or <http://www.virtus.org/virtus/>

Web Site Development & Maintenance

The parish maintains an active presence on the web and social media. We welcome your involvement and submissions for our digital presence.

Contact Jason Strickland (912-387-6781- jason@jason.com.mx)

