

## Parish Weekly Update

*Fr. Jason Johnston*

### **Baptisms**

Congratulations to all of our newly baptized children and soon to be baptized. Please join us in welcoming them into the Body of Christ and praying for them as new members of the Church of God.

- Andrea Hilario-Demecio, the daughter of Arelly and Daniel Hilario, who was baptized last Saturday, July 13.
- Jesus Hilario-Martinez, the son of Ana and Enrique Hilario, who was also baptized last Saturday, July 13.
- Amaiah Selah Puckett, the daughter of Hannah and Blake Laurel, who was baptized last Sunday after the 11:30 am Mass.
- Titus Granger Simmonds, the son of Heather and Tom Simmonds, who will be baptized at the 9 am Mass this Sunday.

### **Donut Sunday**

Donut Sunday is this Sunday. Thanks to the Parish Care committee for providing us with this great opportunity for our community.

### **Office Manager**

Our Hiring Committee has been meeting and very soon we should be able to hire someone and announce it to the parish.

### **Maintenance Projects**

As you can see, we haven't begun the projects that the Finance Council approved in May -- the church sign, the fencing around air conditioner units, the handicap parking spaces, and the drainage for the area between churches. But they are still on queue. So be on the lookout for when these things begin to take shape.

## **Knights of Columbus**

Congratulations to the new officers of the Knights of Columbus who were installed last night. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary who cooked a wonderful meal as well. We are looking forward to a great couple of years with these men who are now giving themselves in a new way in service to the Church and the parish. Thanks fellas.

## **Faith Formation**

Faith Formation is a huge part of what we do here at St. Joseph and any parish should take Faith Formation seriously. With some of the recent statistics published on people leaving their faith behind, I want to offer everyone a few opportunities we have in the parish to help us grow spiritually in our faith:

## **Religious Education (Kindergarten-12th Grade)**

Religious Ed classes begin September 16. The forms are in the gathering space of the church. Registration is \$20 per child or \$30 for the whole family.

## **FORMED**

Our parish has been using FORMED.org for some time now. There are a lot of great programs offered through this series. It's like watching Holy Netflix. Go to [stjosephstarkville.formed.org](http://stjosephstarkville.formed.org) and register with our parish code -- HT24XG -- and you should be able to watch a whole host of Catholic Programs that will help you grow deeper spiritually and live our your faith.

## **Diocesan Faith Formation Day - Saturday, August 3**

Every year, the Diocese of Jackson hosts a Day of Faith Formation for Priests, Deacons, Catechists, and Parish leaders. It will be at St. Francis of Assisi. Registration starts at 9 am and the day will end at 3 pm. This year the theme is Christus Vivit: Christ is Alive, based on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation from last year's Ordinary Synod on Youth and Young people. Our very own, Fran Lavelle, Diocesan Director of Faith Formation, and Abbey Schumann, Coordinator of Youth Ministry for the diocese and an MSU alumna, will be organizing and speaking at the event.

## **Bishop Barron**

### **-- Letter to a Suffering Church**

Gregg Twietmeyer will be starting a class in the Fall based on Bishop Barron's Letter to a Suffering Church. I have heard very good reviews about Bishop Barron's book. I think this could be a great way for our parish family to take in some of the things that have happened recently in the local and universal Church and begin to make some sense out of the suffering. When Gregg starts the class we will send out some emails via Flocknote with some of the accompanying materials from Bishop Barron's Word on Fire.

### **- Word on Fire ENGAGE**

As of today, we are reaching close to 1,032 people with our Flocknote mailing list. Bishop Barron and Word on Fire have something like FORMED where someone could log into their parish flocknote and view any Word on Fire program. I've placed a poll at the bottom of the email to see if we'd have a lot of interest. The cost for the parish would be about \$2,000 per year. ENGAGE is \$20 per month for an individual, so if we did this as a parish it wouldn't be so costly for an individual. I'd love to hear your feedback on this. I also think it would be a great way to jumpstart some of the Small Faith Groups that used to get together regularly in the parish.

### **Dcn. John McGinley -- ENGAGE**

Also this Fall, every other Monday, beginning September 9, our very own Dcn. John McGinley will present an Evening of Adult Faith Formation called ENGAGE. This could be a great opportunity to allow the Lord to engage your heart and your mind as Dcn. John explores different aspects of our faith.

### **RCIA**

This past year, we had several people join the Church. I had lots of positive comments from people from around the diocese who saw the amount of people who came into the Church when from our Easter Vigil picture on Facebook. The RCIA inquiry sessions begin on September 4, 2019. Let's keep this in prayer. I think all of us can pray in a particular way about someone who we might invite to those sessions this year.