

FROM THE DESK OF FR. GENE NEFF:

Preserving the Past for the Future: As we prepare to begin a year of celebrating our ***St. George Parish history of 125 years***, we are constantly reminded of the many who preceded us in these sacred buildings, spaces, and grounds. Many of our predecessors are interred in one of our two cemeteries – sacred space that honors their lives with dignity, beauty, and respect.

During the past 12 years, you have worked hard and sacrificed much to honor the past and present of your parish. You have embarked on a journey that will shape the future of the Catholic Community of New Baden. The care and preservation of this legacy is a labor of love. But the future viability, growth, and relevance of this Catholic Church Community depends primarily on the continuing commitment of you, the parishioners. A community that embraces the sacraments, Catholic Social Teaching, the call to discipleship & service, ministry to our youth, the aging & dying, those in need, the widowed & divorced, families, the Scriptures (Word of God), the Mass, and prayer - and incorporates that in their daily lives – is a community that will grow.

As we prepare to begin our ***Quasiquicentennial (125th) Celebration*** with the **8:00 am Mass on Sunday, November 18th, 2018**, I invite you to share, loan, and/or donate any historical items you may have pertaining to St. George Church and parish that we will exhibit in church throughout the year. All loaned items will be returned to the owners.

In addition, special events are planned throughout the year. Just a couple of items: attend the ***Joint Parish Mission*** opening Mass at 4:00 pm **Saturday, November 10th** OR 9:30 am Sunday, November 11th, at St. Mary, Trenton. Attend the 8:00 am Mass on **Sunday, November 18th** at St. George to open this special year-long celebration.

DEACON JOHN'S WORLDVIEW:

Next week, Sunday, Sept. 16th, we will rightfully recognize and celebrate our 2018/2019 ***Parish School of Religion (PSR), Child's Liturgy of the Word, Adult and High School Faith Formation catechist/teachers*** from our St George Parish Community with a "Blessing" and 'Thank You.' These Leaders will assist us teach/catechize our youth in the ways of the Church. It is sad, but a reality not all members of the Faith cherish the innocents of our children. We see that in the news all too often; while once is too much! I just want to share with you briefly what I know the Diocese of Belleville has done, since the early 1990's to address 'Child Abuse.' I can attest to it because I have been involved, first as a member and President of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, under Bishop Gregory (Now Arch Bishop of Atlanta), as a volunteer in the Diocesan Child Protection Office, a certified 'Child Protection' presenter and as an ordained deacon (participant of the program) in the diocese. Bishop Gregory, as the President of the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), lead the effort and established a national office of 'Child Protection.' He ensured the publication of a national child protection policy and had developed a 'Child Protection' Program in the Diocese of Bellville. Since Bishop Braxton's arrival in the Diocese he has strongly supported, endorsed and enhanced the program. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes to ensure your children are surrounded by people who have been thoroughly screened and vetted. Some examples; All adults must attend and complete an 'Initial' Child Protection Training Session. The recorded session lasts over two hours and addresses child abuse and ways to help identify possible incidents, who to notify if you suspect abuse, who are mandatory reporters and much more. All adults who have substantial contact with your children must fill out a "Volunteer Service' Application; submit to background checks consisting of a 'Child Abuse and Neglect Tracking System' (CANTS) search by the State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) (initial and every two years); a search in the 'Uniform Conviction Information Act' program (initial and every five years), by the Illinois State Police and complete and on line refresher course annually. The Church, the diocese's, the parish and parishioner's care and are doing everything we can to protect our children. What can you do – if you suspect something – say something. Father Neff (588-4323) and I (588-4805) are always available to talk. If you don't feel comfortable with that, please call the Diocese Office of Child Protection at 1-618-722-5055; the DCFS Hot-line at 1-800-252-2873; or the New Baden Police Dept. at 1-618-588-7741. The Bottom line - "Child Abuse is a Crime!" Tell someone who can stop the abuse now – We Care.

-- Peace Deacon John

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION (PSR):

NEW – Registration Forms can be found at each exit – ***BUT WAIT*** – you can also register this year and in the future on the St George Web page - <http://www.stgeorgefamily.org/Students/Create> . You can even do it on your phone. Just fill in the form with all required information and hit the CREATE button. You can drop your payment in the collection plate, mail it or stop by the Parish Office Tue-Thurs. Either way, please fill out and return the PSR REGISTRATION FORM **by September 9th**. PSR classes will begin on **September 16th** immediately following 8 o'clock Mass (09:10-1010). Cost for PSR classes remain at \$35.00 per student with a cap of \$70.00 per family. The religious education of your children is a priority at St. George and **no one** will be turned away because of an inability to pay. If you are new to St George Parish, please contact the parish office at 588-4323 to register as new members.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION (RCIA):

Are you interested in the Catholic Faith? If you are an adult, teen, or child (age seven or older), who is in need of Baptism; baptized in another Christian tradition with a desire to become a Catholic; baptized Catholic in need of First Communion and/or Confirmation, the **RCIA** process might be for you! We invite you to come meet some faithful Catholics from our parish families who would consider it a privilege to get to know you and share the truths of the Catholic faith. Inquiry sessions **begin September 17th** @ St. Dominic Annex, Breese. Contact Deacon John (fridleyj@ezeeweb.com) or 588-4805 or St George Parish Office at 588-4323.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS/HAPPENINGS:

Breese American Legion: Fried Chicken Dinner on **Sunday, September 9th** from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm @ the legion. *Fried Chicken, dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, slaw & homemade desserts.* Adults: \$10, Children 6-12: \$5, Under 6: Free. Carry outs available.

Corpus Christi Church Ladies Club, Shiloh: Rummage Sale @ Corpus Christi Church Parish Center. Pre-Sale on **Friday, Sept. 14th** from 6:00-8:00 pm with \$3.00 admission. General public on **Saturday, Sept. 15th** from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. If you have any questions and/or interested in donating, contact the parish office 632-7614.

St. Vincent de Paul Friends of the Poor® Walk: Join us for the **Annual Walk** on **Saturday, Sept. 15th** @ National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows. Register and Walk anytime between 8:00 a.m. – 12 Noon concluding with prayer service and free hot dog lunch. *100% of funds raised go directly to serve the poor!* Walkers and Walk Sponsors Needed Now! For additional information call 618-394-0126.

HSHS St. Joseph's Hospital, Breese: Pre-registration for the **2018 Spring Health Fair** is now open! It's a great time to keep your health in check with lab tests and health screenings. Health Fairs are on the following Wednesdays from 6 – 10am: **September 19th** @ Carlyle KC Hall; **October 3rd** @ Trenton First United Methodist Church; **October 17th** @ Germantown Legion. Forms are available at the hospital's front desk, the HealthPlex, local doctors' offices, local libraries and on the hospital's web site: stjoebreese.com/healthfairs. For more information contact Judy at 618-526-5351.

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women: Convention on **Wednesday, Oct. 10th** with registration at 8:00 am; Welcome 9:15 am; and Closing Liturgy at 2:15pm @ Immaculate Conception Catholic Church – 411 Palmer Road, Columbia, IL 62236. Speakers: Lu Cortese; Fr. Jim Dieters (St. Clare, O'Fallon, IL). Early Registration **by Sept. 25th** - \$18; make checks payable to BDCCW; send to Joan Derringer, 7781 Oakdale Road, Ellis Grove, IL 62241; 618-534-6697. Include: your name, address, phone #, e-mail address; parish name/location; and "North Central Vicariate."

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS!

Zion United Church of Christ Food Pantry is in need of the following items: ***canned chicken, soup, deodorant, washing machine & dish detergent, toilet tissue, paper towels & razor blades.*** Please drop these items in the boxes provided at the entrances of the church. Thank you for your support!!