

**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 (125<sup>th</sup>) Celebration* with the **8:00 am Mass on Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>** OR 9:30 am Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, at St. Mary, Trenton. Attend the 8:00 am Mass on **Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** at St. George to open this special year-long celebration.

**THANK YOU:**

**THANK YOU to the following for their willingness to be witnesses for Jesus Christ:**

**Catechists & Assistants in PSR:**

**Kindergarten:** Jennifer Riggs with assistants Brenden Riggs & Izzy Rodriguez; **Grade 1:** Jessica Morris with assistant Abigayle Rodriguez; **Grade 2:** Stephanie Haar with assistant Erin Woods;

**Grade 3:** Natalie Bossler; **Grade 4:** Sheila Zgonina with assistant John Zgonina; **Grade 5:** Stephanie Pfeffer with assistant Connor Riggs; **Grade 6:** Vivian Bossler; **Grade 7:** Jessika Bossler; **Grade 8:** Dana Wolfslau with assistants Jenna Timmermann, Maddie Campbell, & Kailey Mueller.

**Substitute Catechists:** Erin Brooke, Deanna & Elena Fridley, Renee Brokering, Marlene Fridley, Kelly Barriger, & Dana Woods

**Assistant PSR Directors:** Diane Hoerchler, Kelly Ferri, Trina Brokering, Keith Brooke & Matt Fridley

**Children's Liturgy:** Dana Woods, Stephanie Haar, Dana Wolfslau, Shelia Zgonina, Beth Crawford, Amy Phillips & Susie Hintz

**Youth Ministry:** Dana Wolfslau, Kassie Hund, Justin Wolfslau & Tiffany Lehman

**Adult Faith Formation:** Marcie Kruchten

*May God our Father, the Father of Love, fill you with confidence and joy as you proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit.*

**COMMUNITY CONCERNS/HAPPENINGS:**

**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 19<sup>th</sup>** @ Carlyle KC Hall; **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** @ Trenton First United Methodist Church; **October 17<sup>th</sup>** @ Germantown Legion. Forms are available at the hospital's front desk, the HealthPlex, local doctors' offices, local libraries and on the hospital's website: [stjoebreese.com/healthfairs](http://stjoebreese.com/healthfairs). For more information contact Judy at 618-526-5351.

**Diocesan Council of Catholic Women: Convention on Wednesday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>** 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. 25<sup>th</sup>** - \$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."