St. John the Evangelist

833 Main Street
Agawam, MA 01001

www.stjohnagawam.com

sje.information@gmail.com

Office Phone: 413-786-8105 | ***Fax:*** 413-455-3100

Welcome!

No matter what your present status in the Catholic Church,
No matter what your family or marital situation,
No matter what your past or present religious affiliation,
No matter what your personal history, background, race or other,
No matter what your own self-image or esteem,
You are invited, welcomed, accepted, loved and respected here at St. John's.

EUCHARIST:

Lord's Day Mass: *Saturday* 4:00 pm, *Sunday* 8:00 am, 10:30 am

Weekday Mass: Monday-Tuesday and Thursday-Friday at 8:00 am & Wednesday at 6:00 pm | Adoration: Wed. 12:00 - 6:00 pm

CONFESSION: Saturday 2:45 to 3:45 pm, Wednesday 4:30 to 5:30 pm, or by Appointment.

BAPTISM: Please call the parish office to schedule.

MARRIAGE: To be arranged at least one year in advance. Please call the parish office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Is available in the Confessional every Saturday or see Father after Mass. If you or a loved one needs Father to come to you, please call the parish office.

CONFIRMATION: Takes place in 11th Grade, please contact the Director of Religious Education to enroll in classes. If you are an adult and need to make your Confirmation, please contact the same office and ask about the RCIA program.

HOLY ORDERS: Are you thinking about a vocation to the priesthood or religious life? Please call Fr. Pierz at the parish office, or call the Office of Vocations at (413) 452-0811.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT: *We are a Roman Catholic community inspired by the Holy Spirit to follow the example of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by sharing, growing and spreading God the Father's love through our parish ministries, and by coming together as a community in meaningful prayer and worship to celebrate that love.*

Fifth Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord — May 15, 2022

FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

"Almighty ever-living God, constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us, that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism may, under your protective care, bear much fruit and come to the joys of life eternal.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Pastor: Fr. Michael Pierz
sje.priest@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Hurley
sje.curate@gmail.com

Deacon: Deacon Dave Picard
sje.deacon@gmail.com

Priest in Retirement: Fr. John Lis

Office Manager: Andreana Perkins
sje.operationsmanager@gmail.com

Parish Secretary: Debbie Whitehead*

Reception Volunteers: Mary Talarico, Patricia Brown, Shirley Cusluski

Pastoral Ministry to Sick & Homebound: Francesca Brandt
sje.homebound@gmail.com

Director of Religious Education: Claire Riberdy
sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

Director of "In the Beginning"

Pre-School Ministry: Claire Riberdy (Interim)
sje.religiouseducation@gmail.com

Pre-School Teachers:
Lindsay Hagedorn, Mary Boulrice

Director of Music Ministry: Isabella Manning
sje.musicdirector@gmail.com

Maintenance Supervisor: Beth Thomas
sje.maintenance@gmail.com

Child Advocate: Mary Beth Swindell
Private Line: (860) 386-6009

Finance Council:

David Ross (Chair)	Dale Marie Breault
Stanley Ciempa	Cecile Fragoso
Albert Innarelli	Suzanne Lamkins

Pastoral Council:

Cecile Fragoso (Chair)	Trisha Brown
Judy Cross Donahue	Luke Hollwedel
Mary Kate Henle	Jeffrey Krause
Leo Marinak	Jessica Pokora
Jane Seaver	Jane Trevethan

Gianna Smith (Youth Representative)

Bulletin Submissions are due 12 days prior to print
Email: sje.parishsecretary@gmail.com

Thoughts from the Rectory…

Dear friends of St. John the Evangelist,

Christ is Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!
He is Truly Risen! Alleluia, Alleluia!

During these bright May days of spring the words of St. John the Evangelist in his Book of Revelation become our own in a unique way: "I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The former heaven and the former earth had passed away". In the span of just a few short weeks our natural environment has gone from gray bleakness to vibrant life. The natural order more readily reflects supernatural realities. As the life of spring follows the slumber of winter, our souls can be ever more disposed to seek newness in Christ in the vibrancy of faith. "The One who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new".

A faith in God with trust in His Word and the care of His Church is our pursuit in daily life. To be disposed always to His life-giving spirit and to follow His ways in truth and wisdom. Christ makes all things new and He is constantly renewing us in His grace, if only we seek it, ask for it, open ourselves to it. Indeed His grace restores us to love and to follow His command to love one another.

As we have joyfully blessed our Holy Family statue in the Sanctuary Flower Garden, we are encouraged to foster greater depth of love and practice of virtue in our own families. With our mothers and fathers, our brothers and sisters, we come to learn how to love. With our parish family, neighbors and friends, we engage these efforts throughout our lives. It is in the family where we first learn to grow and become whom we are called to be.

As the family is often called the "domestic Church", let us foster our works and efforts sanctified by God's grace. Don't be afraid to do what you can as you build up holiness in our families and strive for the greater good!

This week I will be in Scranton, Pennsylvania participating in some ecumenical dialogue meetings seeking greater Christian unity and fostering deeper communion in the family that is our Church. Please pray for our dialogue partners, clergy and faithful of the Polish National Catholic Church and the Roman Catholic Church, as we endeavor to find meaningful opportunities for greater collaboration and unity.

St. John the Evangelist, pray for us!

Fr. Pierz

FIFTH SUNDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Saturday, May 14th

4:00 pm—Maria & Stanislaw Romanowski

Sunday, May 15th

8:00 am—FOR THE PEOPLE

10:30 am—Francis & June Meade ✞ & Family

Requested by Their Son David

Monday, May 16th

8:00 am—Elizabeth Emerson ✞

Requested by Donna Marie Cooper O'Boyle

Tuesday, May 17th

8:00 am—Victoria Adamski ✞ & Wanda Adamski ✞

Requested by Helene & Little Ed

Wednesday, May 18th—Saint John I, Pope and Martyr

6:00 pm– Anniversary of Leo & Tasya

Requested by Her Beloved Husband

Thursday, May 19th

8:00 am—Patricia Ferraro ✞

Requested by Donna Marie Cooper O'Boyle

Friday, May 20th—Saint Bernardine of Siena, Priest

8:00 am—David ✞ & Beverly Ladizki ✞

Requested by The Ladizki, Malone, & Brunet Families

SIXTH SUNDAY IN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

Saturday, May 21st

4:00 pm—John, John A. & Marissa ✞ Tangreak

Requested by Wife & Mother Marcia

Sunday, May 22nd

8:00 am—Fred ✞ & Alice ✞ Bliss

Requested by Their Daughter & Family

10:30 am—FOR THE PEOPLE

PS Next weekend, following the dialogue meetings, I will join my brother and his family in celebrating the Confirmation and First Holy Communion of my nephew. During this season of family festivities, may each of us, especially our first holy communicants here in our parish and among our families, know the nearness of the Lord and His call to love one another.

SANCTUARY LAMP

MAY 15-21

WILL BE LIT FOR

THOSE WHO HAVE SUFFERED ADDICTION-RELATED DEATHS

If you would like to request the Sanctuary Candle to be lit in honor of or in memory of someone, please contact the parish office.

MEMORIAL LAMP FOR OUR CHILDREN

If you would like to request the *Memorial Lamp for Children* to be lit in honor or in memory of a child, including the unborn, contact the parish office.

Please remember in your prayers: Please pray for the sick and dying of our parish. Remember all who are in hospitals, nursing homes and homebound. Pray for the hungry, the unemployed and under-employed. Pray for an end to abortion and a true respect for all life, from conception to natural death. Pray for peace. In a concrete way we pray for all those who have died and all the deceased members of our parish and diocese, especially Sister Anna Marie Kane, SSJ, Edward Shea, and Eileenmari Leclerc.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. *Amen.*

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. *Amen.*

IN MY MOTHER'S ARMS PRAYER LINE:

If you have a serious intention that you need prayers for: surgery, sufferings, medical, illness, cancer treatment, a sick child, or anything like that, please give Pat (786-3023) or Mary (786-9671) a call and you will have countless rosaries and prayers. ***If anyone else is interested in being a prayer partner, please call Pat or Mary.***

The Ascension of the Lord

"The Lord opening the way to Heaven
gives us a foretaste of divine life already on this earth."
- Pope Benedict XVI

Holy Day of Obligation

Vigil Mass: Wednesday, May 25, at 6:00 pm

Holy Day Mass: Thursday, May 26 at 8:00 am and 6:00 pm

Special Commission Announcements:

The *Christian Service Commission* meeting was postponed from May 2nd to May 16th. Please join us at 6:30 pm in the Pastoral Center. This commission focuses on ministries that feed the hungry and cares for those in need.

The *Worship* and *Spiritual Life Commissions* invite you to the third Thursday Adoration, May 19 at 7 pm. A rosary will be prayed for Ukraine, and a special collection basket will be made available.

The *Family and Human Life Commission* will host it's monthly bonfire activity, Sunday, May 22nd at 5 pm (following the Lawn Party).

Learn more about these and other ministries at stjohnagawam.com, click "Ministries".

SAINT JOHN 1, POPE & MARTYR

St. John I was a sixth-century pope born in the Italian province of Tuscany, and was elected pope in 523.
Feast Day: May 18

COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S

Daily Mass Times: 8 am (M, T, Th, F) 6 pm (W)
Confession Times: Wed. 4:30 pm, Sat., 2:45 pm

Monday, May 16th
9:00 am St. Monica Group (LC)
6:00 pm Ladies Exercise (PC3)
7:00 pm St. Monica Group (LC)

Tuesday, May 17th
6:00 pm Young & Catholic Women (PCR)
6:30 pm Christian Services (FJR)

Wednesday, May 18th
10:00am Knitting Group (FJR)
12:00 pm Adoration (Church)
6:30 pm Music Ministry (Church)
7:00 pm Worship Commission (FJR)
7:00 pm Young & Catholic Men (LC)

Thursday, May 19th
6:00 pm Ladies Exercise (PC3)
6:30 pm Scouts (LC)
7:00 pm ADORATION (Church)

Saturday, May 21st
8:30 am Adult Confirmation (PC3)

Sunday, May 22nd
11:30 am Lawn Party (Outside)
5:00 pm Bonfire (Outside)

Ministry to Sick & Homebound

PASTORAL MINISTRY HOURS:

Monday-Thursday from 9am-1pm

Francesca Brandt, Pastoral Minister

413-786-8105 ext. 105 | sje.homebound@gmail.com

HOSPITAL VISITS: HIPAA Medical Law restricts access to patient admittance information. On arrival via emergency transport or self-transport, be sure to ask for in-house Clergy information to have a visit with a Catholic Priest for an anointing of the sick.

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY: If you or a family member are confined to home due to illness or are anticipating surgery, please contact the parish office to request a Pastoral visit with Francesca Brandt, P.M. She will bring Holy Communion, as well as, inform Fr. Pierz and Fr. Hurley of the visit.

FOLLOW UP VISITS: Upon request by contacting the pastoral minister, a follow-up visit will be made to the home post-surgery and/or illness during the recuperation period.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: One on One home care visits to the Sick and Homebound residents. Please call if you or someone you know would like to receive.

HELP NEEDED: In this Spiritually Filled Vocation, help is needed to bring Holy Communion to confined Catholic residents, Home visits or Nursing home visits. Contact Francesca if you are interested in this Highly Spiritual Vocation, a given from your heart of Spiritual Love, bringing Jesus, the Holy Eucharist, to those who cannot receive HIM without help from you. Francesca will assist you and train you personally. ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL.

BEREAVEMENT: A bereavement counseling visit may be prudent in helping the understanding of Our Blessed Lord's words of never being left alone. Fr. John Hurley and Francesca are here to assist you during your grief prolongment. Allow your "Tears of Sorrow" to warm into "Tears of Hope and Fulfilment of Blessings".

ALL CALLS ARE CONFIDENTIAL: 413-786-8105

PRAYER SHAWLS: If you have a family member, friend, or know someone who could benefit from a bit of extra comfort, please contact Francesca who will pass on the information to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Each shawl includes the name of the prayer shawl Angel who crafted the shawl with prayerful love. Please note, the shawl must be picked up and delivered by the person who submitted the request. Call Francesca with your request and be sure to leave your phone number for a return call.

Three ways to pray for vocations

REGIONAL
By Father Augustine Judd, OP, Special to iObserve

"Ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2).

Inspired by this instruction of the Lord, the Catholic Church sets aside Good Shepherd Sunday, which falls on the Fourth Sunday of Easter, as the annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

While appreciating all vocations, the church concentrates its attention this day on vocations to the ordained ministries (priesthood and diaconate); consecrated life in all its forms (male and female religious life, societies of apostolic life, consecrated virginity); secular institutes in their diversity of services and membership; and to the missionary life. Moreover, it unites the faithful in praying both for those currently discerning vocations to ordained ministry and consecrated life *and* for those living out these vocations.

While it is important that we "ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" in a general way, here are three particular ways to focus and direct our prayer for vocations and the men and women discerning and living them:

Pray to identify someone you know who has, or someone you think might have, a vocation to the priesthood and/or consecrated life.

Is there a young man or young woman who strikes you as having a special love for prayer? For service? Is there a young man or young woman who is particularly joyful? Kind? Affable? Wise? Regularly involved in church activities?

Perhaps one of your own children or grandchildren or nieces or nephews strikes you as having one or more of these qualities. Regarding those who are already living out these vocations, certainly pray for the perseverance of the vocations of all priests and consecrated person, but be sure to pray regularly for *this* priest and *this* consecrated person as well.

Pray about how you are going to encourage this individual.

If you are a parent or grandparent and think one or more of your offspring may have a vocation, pray to have the courage and concern to speak directly and casually to them about their unique vocations. Pray to be able to show gentleness and restraint in doing so with those who do not respond well to directness at first. Note that "restraint" here does not mean never speaking about or initiating the topic. It means one might start off by gently encouraging them to listen to God. It means reminding them to open to receiving the immense love God has for them, and showing them how he desires a relationship with them.

Others might respond better with a quick bit of direct encouragement. For example, one might approach a young man or young woman and say, “You know, I have noticed how often you come to church to pray (or how reverently you serve Mass or serve as lector, or how much you love teaching or taking care of others). You may have a vocation to be a priest/brother/sister/ contemplative nun. You should think and pray about it. It can be hard to figure out where the Lord is calling you. I will certainly pray that it becomes clearer for you, and I want to encourage you in every way possible.”

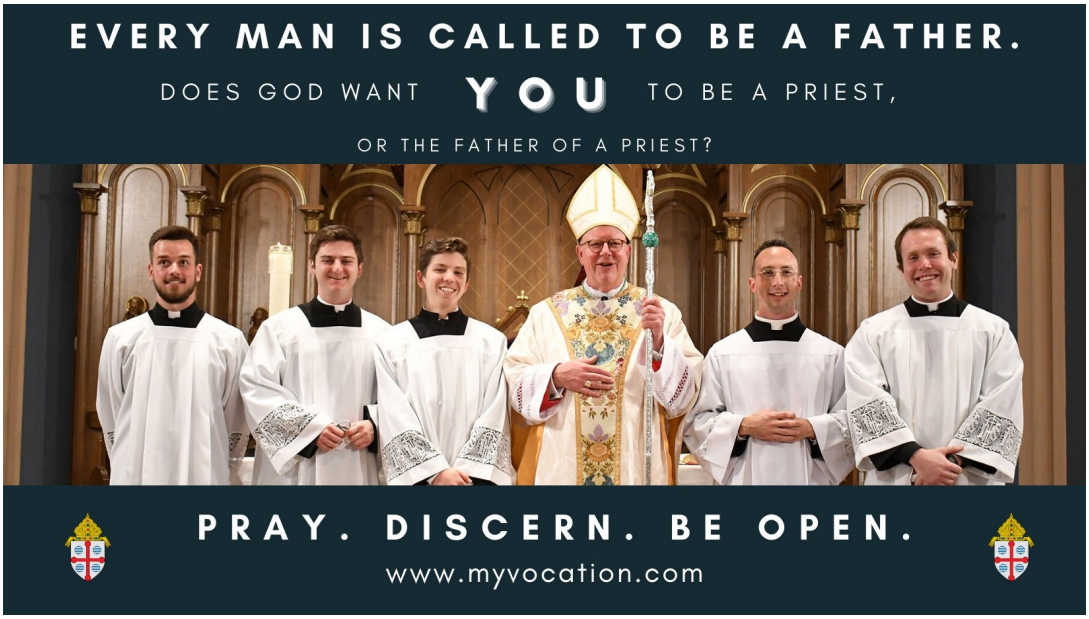
Then leave it to the Holy Spirit and that person’s heart

Praying about how you are going to encourage this individual, do not be paralyzed by fear that you might go about it the “wrong way.” Do it anyway, even if awkwardly or poorly. Absolutely no vocation was discovered and pursued without the encouragement of another, whether from a priest or religious or family member or friend.

As for encouraging those individuals already living out vocations to priesthood and/or consecrated life, pray about how you are going to invite, befriend, encourage and, if need be, forgive them. Be specific. Priests and consecrated persons need friends who are not priests and consecrated persons. They need their love, and they need their understanding that they too “hold this treasure in earthen vessels” (1 Cor 4:7).

<u>Pray for greater strength and final perseverance in your own settled vocation.</u>

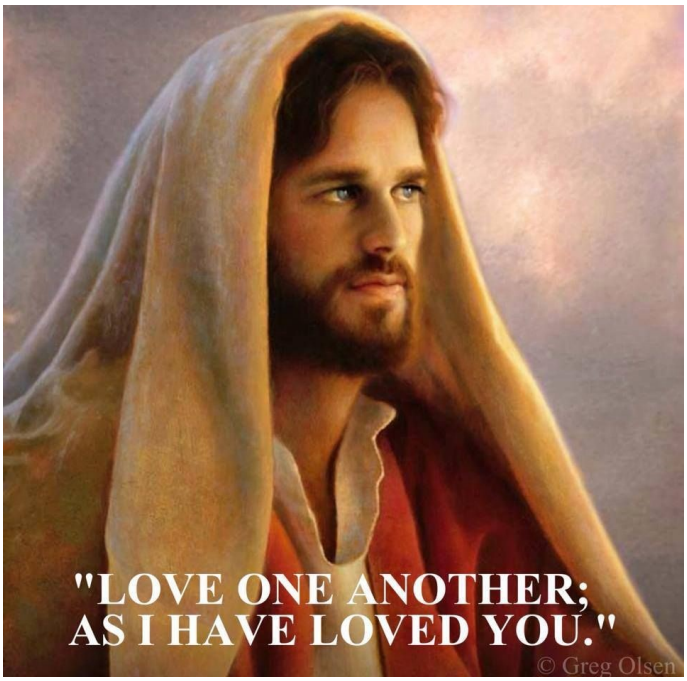
The different vocations in the church nourish each other and depend on each other. It is no accident that in places where there is a crisis in priestly vocations or religious vocations, there is also a crisis in married and lay vocations. Stable, happy, and loving married couples produce stable, happy, and loving priests and consecrated people. Stable, happy, and loving priests and consecrated people are more free and able to accompany married and lay people on their earthly pilgrimage.



These are just three ways to hone our need to” ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.” There are doubtless many, many more. Ask the master of the harvest to send them to you as well.

Father Judd is delegate for consecrated life for the Diocese of Springfield .

Holy Family Statue Dedication—May 8, 2022



Rosary Intention (week of May 15)

Pray the Rosary for those who have lost children through death, stillbirth, miscarriage or abortion.

Crowning of Mary 2022

The week following First Holy Communion, it is tradition that students crown the statue of Our Blessed Mother Mary. This year, the crowning was done by students Matteo Chavez and Milynn Dunbar.

The Bottom Line

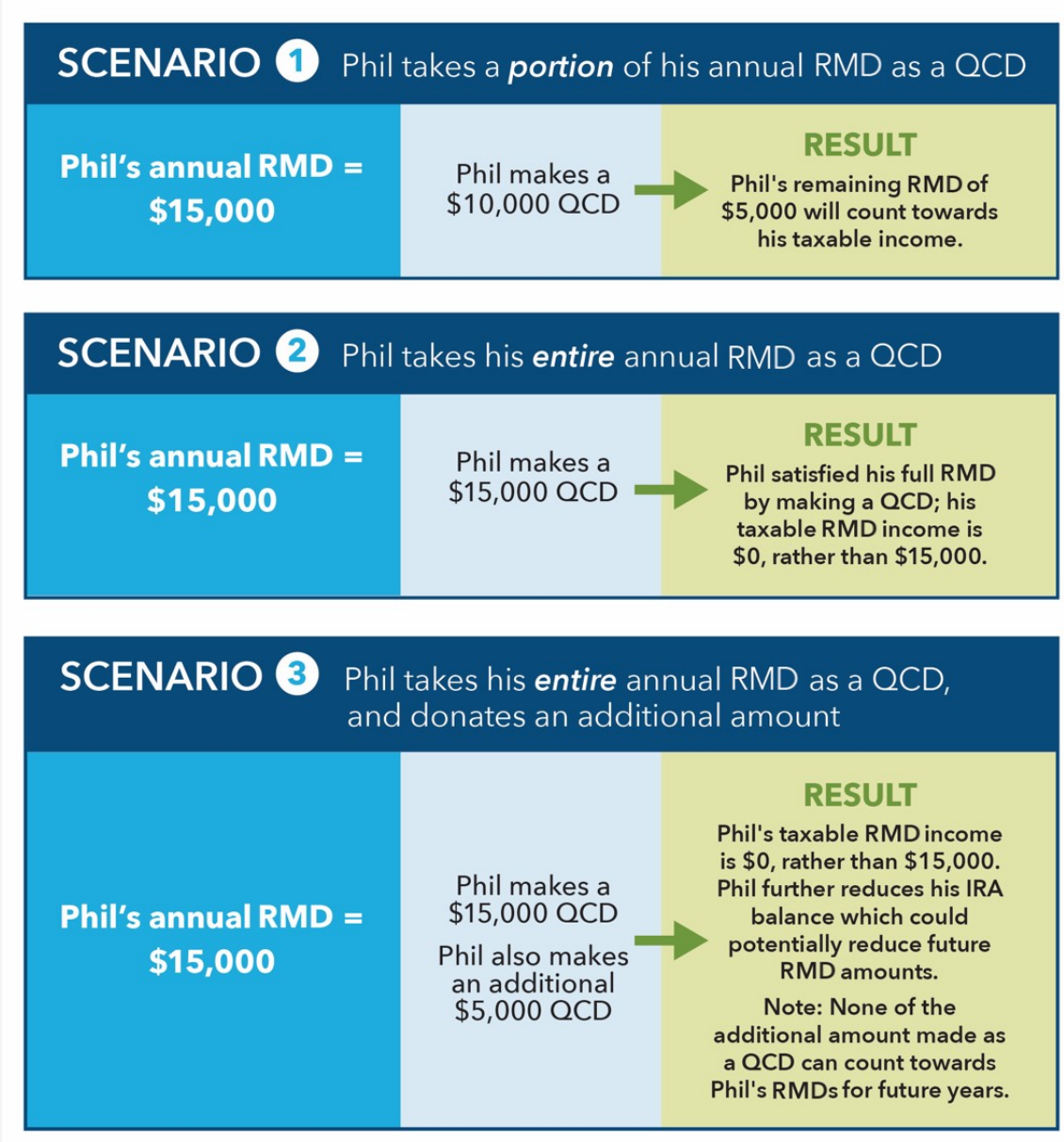
News from the Finance Council

Below is a tip from the Finance Council. Please consider St. John the Evangelist Church when considering charitable contributions.

Understanding Qualified Charitable Deductions

For a better understanding of how Qualified Charitable Deductions (QCD) can affect your taxable income, let's consider a few hypothetical scenarios. “Phil” has been taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMD’s) for the past few years, but this year he has decided to make a QCD. “Phil” did not make any non-deductible contributions to his IRA, so all of his distributions would be taxable.

If you are at least age 72, own an IRA, and donate to charity, QCDs may make sense for you. Consult a tax advisor regarding your specific situation.



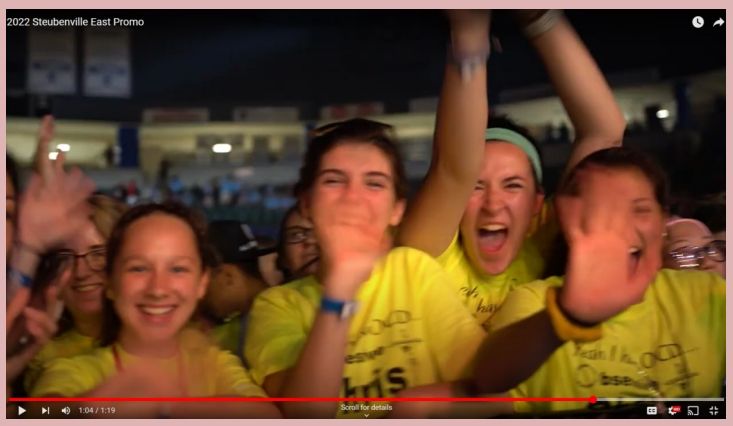
Calling All *01001* Teens!

***You're Invited* to a**

TEEN YOUTH CONFERENCE

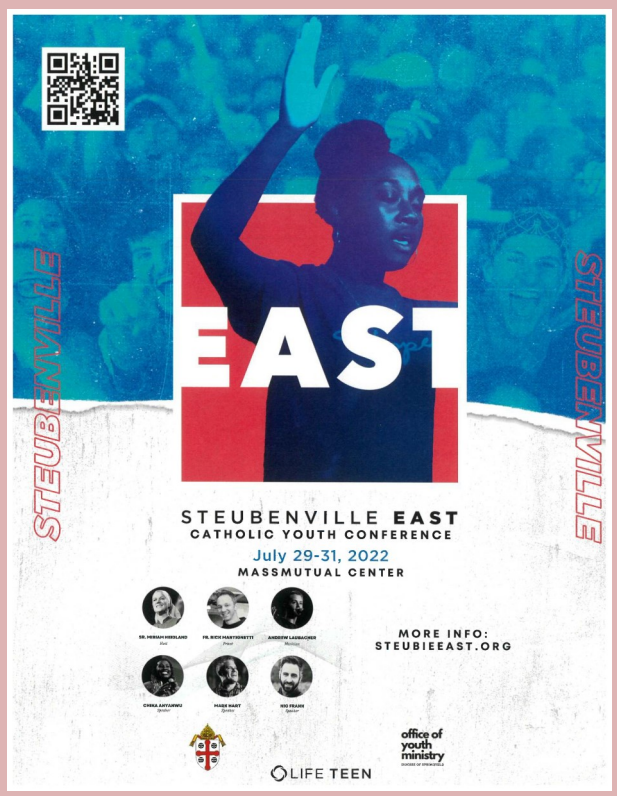
JULY 29-31, 2022 @ THE MASSMUTUAL CENTER, SPRINGFIELD

Steubenville East is a TEEN YOUTH CONFERENCE
that is FUN, ENGAGING, and INSPIRATIONAL.
Want to experience a life worth living?
Come join teens from throughout the region.
ALL TEENS WELCOME - YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BELONG TO A CHURCH.
SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR AGAWAM TEENS



Watch an informative video:
https://youtu.be/ulpg1_HDCgE

Contact St. John the Evangelist Parish,
(413) 786-8105
to learn about scholarship opportunities.*



**The cost per teen is $200; however, teens residing in Agawam (01001) might be eligible for a scholarship of $75 from St. John the Evangelist Parish, lowering the cost to $125 for the 3-day conference.*

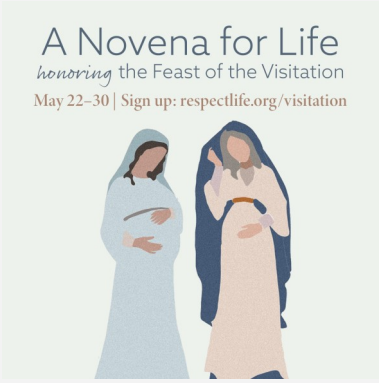
Parishioners of St. John's: *If you would like to assist in further-reducing the cost for a teen to attend the Steubenville East Conference, please contact Fr. Pierz*

Pro-Life Corner

St. John's Pro-Life Coordinators:
Judy Cross-Donahue (Call Parish Office)

"Everyone is in need of reassurance, and if we, who have touched 'the Word of life' (1 Jn 1:1) do not give it, who will? How beautiful it is to be Christians who offer consolation, who bear the burdens of others and who offer encouragement: messengers of life in a time of death!"
Pope Francis, 2020 Easter Vigil Homily

Join A Novena for Life honoring the Feast of the Visitation. Sign up at respectlife.org/visitation!



ANNUAL PARISH LAWN PARTY

SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, May 22, 11:30am

This year's theme is fairytales. Come dressed as your favorite fairytale character to win a prize. Trivia, Music, Games, Ice Cream, Food, and Fellowship!

Regina Caeli, laetare, alleluia!

Have you heard these words being sung during Mass recently? These are the opening words from the current Marian Antiphon. The Marian Antiphons are four different chants which are sung in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary throughout the liturgical year, each fitting to a particular season. During Easter time, we sing the Regina Caeli which celebrates Mary's joy in her risen Son and asks for her intercession. You will be hearing this often at Mass throughout this Easter season and it will be sung every week after the Wednesday 6pm Mass. Please join us in learning this beautiful antiphon! You can find the words and music at number 725 in our hymnal.

Weekend of May 8, 2022

"Pray, brethren, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father"

Weekly: $3,188
Maintenance: $988
Fuel: $94
Loose: $443.25
Loan Repayment: $714
Online Giving: $1,462.83

Total: $6,890.08

Loan Update:

Original Loan Amount : $275,000
Loan Repayment Collected on May 8: $714
Required Monthly Loan Payment: $5,049.05
Loan Repayment Collected as of 4/30/22: $120,376.58
Loan Balance as of 4/30/22: ($126,962.21)

"May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of His name, for our good and the good of all His holy Church."