



## Saint Joseph Parish Life

# CARPENTER

Issue 1

BOGOTA, NEW JERSEY

January 2023



### ***St. Joseph's Advent Retreat***

On Saturday, December 10, our parish held its annual Advent Retreat. This year, the topic of hope was explored. Father Scott's reflections linked Old and New Testament figures in how hope presented itself in their stories, and how that history of hope impacts us both as individuals and as a church. Drawing on the teachings of Pope Francis, he explained how those present at the Nativity both convey hope and reflect Israel's history. Examining hope in Mary, the Blessed Mother and how she leads us closer to Jesus and with the end goal of our understanding how to receive God's grace into our souls and reflect the Trinity in the world around us; St. Joseph, in his obedience and how we can model it; the shepherds, and how God showed their value and rewarded their humility by sending the angels to them; and the angels themselves, how even among those who may not profess faith in God, view angels as a symbol of hope.

Father Scott also shared that Christmas is hope fulfilled, in that Jesus took on our humanity, and embraced it even into the Resurrection. In doing so, we have hope that one day we, too, can join Jesus and the Blessed Mother in heaven. Continuing to share the thoughts of Pope Francis, Father Scott went on to explain how while humans now have the hope of heaven—there is still much that is not complete in this world, and that the incarnation of Jesus challenges us to pray for both hope and courage to work for justice and charity.

The reflections, prayers, exposition of the Eucharist, and the wonderful music provided by our Music Director, Michael Chladil, combined to make the retreat a moving and thought-provoking high point in the Advent season.

### **St. Joseph's Church Mission**

St. Joseph's Church mission was held during the weekend of December 17-18. Father Jesus Peralta presented on the theme, "The Eucharist: Meaning and Purpose." A multi-media presentation, Fr. Jesus stressed not just the centrality of the Eucharist to the Mass, but to our daily lives. He conveyed a powerful message regarding Christ's love for us, and how He gives us His best in the Eucharist. In turn, we are called to give our best; not only in our participation in the celebration of Mass each week, but in how we treat those around us. Fr. Jesus encouraged us in this endeavor by sharing that the Eucharist is a 'sacrifice of love.' Jesus sacrificed himself so that we may have eternal life, and that sacrifice can manifest in our lives as discipline—the discipline to serve our loved ones without complaint.

Fr. Jesus further explained that God will help us to do this if we pray and listen. He admonished us to listen like Mary, the sister of Martha, and to obey like Mary, the Mother of God. It is through prayer and obedience that we will gain strength to give our best to both God and our neighbor. In our prayer, he suggests that we should ask God to change ourselves, and that we are to take personal responsibility when listening to God; that we should offer ourselves to God, and to seek the Holy Spirit.

As Advent is a time of looking inward and readying ourselves for the coming of Christ, the message that Fr. Jesus presented offered much for us to consider. May those of us who attended share his message of loving sacrifice and service with everyone in our parish and elsewhere, through our words and actions.



### **Loving Remembrance - The Annual All Souls Day Commemoration**

On November 2nd, St. Joseph's Church held its annual All Souls Day Commemoration, which is highlighted by the celebration of Mass and the recognition of those church members who have passed in the previous year. Along with the celebration of the Eucharist, perhaps the most poignant part of our commemoration is the lighting of the luminaries. While the indoor candle displays allow us to remember our loved ones at each of the altars—to Jesus, Mary, St. Joseph, St. Therese of Lisieux, and the Eucharistic altar, the luminaries are where we can express our heartfelt sentiments as part of our remembrance of them. Personal details about those we miss can be seen on each bag; their relationship to us, how much we miss them, and even references to things they loved.

*Continued Page 2*

## Loving Remembrance (Continued)

The luminaries are sold each year by the Holy Name Society. Providing this ministry for the last ten years, the proceeds go to fund various needs of the church and in the community. These have included paying for the bench in the Blessed Mother Grotto, the new manger for the Nativity scene, and contributions to St. Joseph's Food Pantry, church maintenance, and the Diocesan Annual Appeal. They also collect Rosaries and send them to veterans hospitals throughout the country.

This year, between 140-150 luminaries were purchased by parishioners, and lit up the night in the Blessed Mother Grotto beautifully.

The Holy Name Society meets on the second Sunday of every month after the 8:00 am Mass. Coffee and donuts are served, and new members are always welcome!



the Chapel of the Ascension



walk along the Sea of Galilee



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

**March 4-12 2023**



Live this encounter with the Lord



the Holy Sepulchre

**Let's talk**

Contact

Fr. Scott Attanasio  
201-342-6300  
frscott@stjosephbogota.org

Ivette Aguasvivas  
201-458-1536  
Iaguasvivas@mn.com

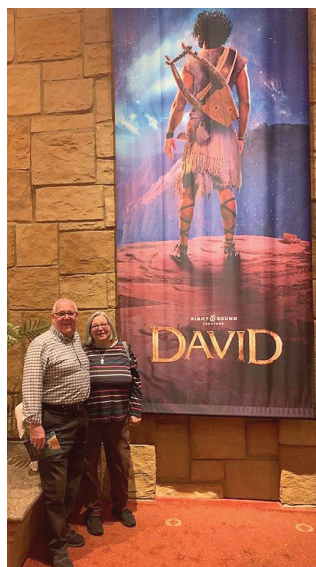
A trip to Israel is more than exciting... it's a life-changing experience.

a life-changing experience

## St. Joseph's Trip to the Holy Land Has Spots Still Available

The parish's upcoming trip to the Holy Land, with Fr. Scott serving as spiritual guide, still has seats available. Don't miss out on this life-changing opportunity to walk where Jesus walked, and to gain a greater understanding of scripture. The tour will include visits to Bethlehem, Cana, the Mount of Beatitudes, Capernaum, the Jordan River, and the Sea of Galilee, as well as many other places made known to us in the Gospel.

Arrangements with the travel company are being finalized later this month, so it is important to reserve your spot now. Having a full roster allows the travel company to provide us with the best experience at the best price possible. Don't miss out on this amazing opportunity to enhance your faith, grow in knowledge and understanding, and to share in the fellowship that a trip such as this provides. Contact Fr. Scott at 201-342-6300 to reserve your spot.



## What Parishioners Had to Say About "David" at the Sight & Sound Theater

On October 26, members of the parish and their friends were treated to an outstanding performance of "David" at the Sight & Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. Approximately 85 people departed from St. Joseph's Church for the journey, with a stop for lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord. After partaking of a varied buffet that, as Neva Averion-Tenido put it, would allow "even a picky eater to not go hungry," our group arrived at Sight & Sound Theater.

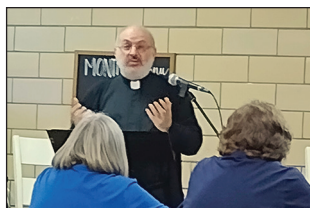
"Broadway caliber," was how Barbara Jenner described the production. Both Neva and Barbara, as well as Ivette Aguasvivas, agreed that the production was top notch. Ivette stated that the, "live animals, video waterfalls, set changes, and special effects were part of this spectacular play." All three parishioners mentioned the full use of the theater in the production, with actors coming down the

aisles and having action on both sides of the stage. They also noted the effective use of lighting, the beautiful costumes, and the music as other high points of the production. Especially climactic was the slingshot scene, where David slays Goliath.

Based on the comments of those who attended, productions at Sight and Sound Theater are not to be missed! People of all faiths—or none—would still enjoy seeing "David." Make plans now to participate in St. Joseph's Parish's next outing to Sight and Sound Theater.

## Ask the Pastor/Listening Session

On October 25, St. Joseph's Parish hosted an "Ask the Pastor"/Listening Session in the Bogota Middle School cafeteria. Moderated by Darrin Nelson of Renew International, those members of the church that participated had the opportunity to ask questions about their faith journey and their lives as interesting things about vicar, and had the chance that have come since they



Because Renew International's mission is focused on parish renewal, Darrin Nelson and his team facilitated a conversation on the joys, concerns, and opportunities for spiritual growth here at St. Joseph's. Despite the challenges of the last several years, the overall tone was very positive and hopeful.

Continued opportunities for parishioners to come together and participate in the work of renewing St. Joseph's Church will take place throughout the coming year. Please join us in this meaningful opportunity to shape our parish's future, and to deepen our relationships as a church family.

Welcome home Christmas

**Sunday Mass**  
8am (English)  
10am (English)  
12pm (Spanish)

**Saturday Evening Mass**  
5pm (English)

**Daily Mass**  
Mornings 8am



**As we conclude the Christmas Season, we would like to give thanks to many people in our Parish who helped make this Christmas a beautiful celebration. We thank all of you for your continued love and support to St. Joseph's.**

**May all of you have a truly Blessed New Year!**

**Fr. Scott, Fr. Eduardo and Deacon Kevin**





## Social Concerns Committee Autumn Activities

The Social Concerns Committee of St. Joseph's Church has had a busy autumn season! October was Respect for Life Month and our parish celebrated with a "Baby Shower." Parishioners were asked to donate items such as diapers, baby wipes, blankets, clothes, bottles, pacifiers, and hair/skin care items. As usual, church members showed their generosity by providing numerous boxes of these items. A celebration was held on the church lawn on Sunday, October 30th, with the Social Concerns Committee providing light refreshments.

One week later, the committee also sponsored a Coat Swap, on Saturday, November 5th. Again, parishioners showed their generosity by donating winter gear for all age ranges. Beautiful hand-knitted hats were among the items available! Coats that were not 'swapped' during the afternoon event have been donated to Several Sources Shelter in Ramsey, Love of Jesus Ministries in Paterson, as well as to the St. Joseph's Collection boxes located in the church parking lot.

The Social Concerns Committee would like to thank all who participated in these events, and invites anyone interested in issues of social justice to join in the committee's efforts to address the challenges that face many in our church, the wider community, and the world at large.



## THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

Earlier this year, three St. Joseph parishioners achieved the rank of Eagle Scout as members of Boy Scout Troop 5 based in Holy Trinity Church in Hackensack.

The young men are Colin Clark, Burton Oh and William Wieskus. A Court of Honor was held on Sunday, August 7, 2022. They join a list of men including US Presidents, Senators, Congressmen, Governors, Astronauts, and many prominent world and industry leaders.

The road to Eagle Scout is long and arduous. In addition to completing a host of merit badges, each candidate must select and complete a Service Project that enhances and benefits their community.

Colin built a handicapped accessible garden bed for the Hackensack Community Garden in Johnson Park.

Burton created a path through the woods behind De Sales High School to provide a peaceful place for students.

William and his team painted Maltese crosses on the street in front of all of the fire hydrants throughout the Borough of Bogota. This enables the Fire Department to easily locate the hydrants.

The Scouts were honored by many national, state and local organizations.



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the Fall of 2007, Mary Sause, our then parish Pastoral Associate, began the St. Joseph Food Pantry. Mary passed away before she could see the benefits her idea would deliver. Carol Bobat and Patricia Fanning oversee the operation. They are assisted weekly by Ceil Boris, Kate Mulligan, Diane Maglione, Pete Kolankowski and Paul Angeli. Karen Fusco and her daughter Giovanna Fusco help on pick-up days.

Currently, the pantry feeds an average of 50 families per month. In order to qualify for this assistance, the families must be parishioners or residents of Teaneck or Bogota. Proof of residency is required, usually in the form of a utility bill.

Families are requested to complete a questionnaire describing the size and ages of family members. Preferences with regard to certain non-perishable products. The volunteer staff will make every effort to accommodate these preferences.

Families may pick up their allotment once a month at the Food Pantry located on Fourth Place in Bogota.

A typical allotment may include various canned soup or vegetables or fruit, peanut butter and jelly, cold and/or hot cereal, pasta and pasta sauce, canned or dried beans, mac and cheese, rice, or instant mashed potatoes, proteins include

tuna, sardines, chili, spam, beef stew. Pudding, jello or brownie mix may also be included. Toilet paper and laundry detergent are distributed on a limited basis. All allotments are based on size and ages of participating families.

Not all items are available every month. Despite shortages and high costs, the pantry was able to supply turkeys, chickens or hams for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. From time to time, the pantry receives fresh produce and this is distributed among the families.

The pantry relies heavily on donations in the form of cash, food store gift cards or non-perishable items. The staff also reaches out to our local food stores for donations and/or discounts. It should be noted that the staff, especially Carol and Pat spend much of their time shopping sales throughout the area in order to keep the pantry well stocked in non-perishable items.

If you would like more information about this ministry, either to volunteer, donate or apply for assistance, contact the Rectory at 201-342-6300.

