



Saint Joseph Parish Life

CARPENTER

Issue 2

BOGOTA, NEW JERSEY

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Italian Treasures

We are very happy to announce that St. Joseph Church is planning a Pilgrimage to Italy for 13 spiritually uplifting - fun filled days from November 11 to 24, 2024. The tour will feature Round Trip Airfare, 13 days - 20 Meals, Full Breakfast Daily, Delicious Dinners, Farewell Dinner in Rome, Wine, Music and Song, Professional Guides and drivers and a Private motorcoach. During the trip, Holy Mass will be celebrated at Saint Peter Basilica, the Shrine of St. Padre Pio, the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi and Our Lady of Pompeii Cathedral. During the trip we will visit Naples, the Ancient Ruins of Pompeii, the Shrine of St. Padre Pio, Assisi - the hometown of St. Francis, Tuscany, Florence, Padua and the Tomb and Basilica of St. Anthony of Padua. We will end our trip in Rome where we will visit the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the tomb of St. Peter, and the Vatican where we will participate in an audience with the Holy Father, Pope Francis and many other sites. We have been blessed with an unbelievable price of \$3,565 per person which includes Airfare, Hotels, Land and Meals. Please consider going on this wonderful trip and pilgrimage. For more information about the trip, please contact Fr. Scott, 201-342-6300.

Pilgrimage to Italy

**Rome - Assisi - Naples - Padua - Florence
S. Padre Pio Shrine - Tuscany**

November 11 to 24, 2024

**RESERVE YOUR SPACE TODAY . . .
SEATS ARE LIMITED**

St. Joseph's Ministry Fair

During the weekend of October 28-29, parishioners had the opportunity to learn more about each parish ministry at the annual St. Joseph's Church Ministry Fair. After each of the weekend Masses, our 24 English- and Spanish-speaking ministries displayed information on how they serve our faith community, and on how church attendees can get involved. Representatives from ministries such as the Filipino Apostolate, the Youth Ministry, the Baptism Ministry, the Pastoral Council, and the Music Ministry all shared, too, what their involvement has meant to them as well.



For example, Filipino Apostolate members shared how their mission is to help our church community in any way that they can, to walk by faith, and to share the faith practices of the Philippines with the wider church community. Among these practices are the January celebration of Sto. Nino de Cebu (the Infant Jesus), the Easter Salubong (the first meeting of the Blessed Mother and Jesus, after His Resurrection), the May Crowning of Mary, the Living Rosary, and the December

Simbang Gabi (Midnight Mass). Members reiterated that these practices are not just for the Filipino community, but for everyone and that all are invited to participate.

Separate from the Faith Formation program, St. Joseph's Youth Ministry is for middle- and high-school aged members of our faith community. The age-appropriate groups offer teens a place to gather with friends and to make new ones - all while having fun, serving others, learning about Jesus, and worshipping God. Teens will have the opportunity to make sense of their life and their world, through a Christ-centered filter.

The Music Ministry is open to both vocalists and instrumentalists, with the Choir enhancing the Sunday 10am Mass and most feast days, and with instrumentalists participating at both the Saturday 5:30 pm and Sunday 10 am Masses. Choir member Ann Jenkinson shared that participating in the Music Ministry has allowed her to grow closer both to the congregation and to the Lord! She also stated that participating in the choir is enjoyable because of the supportive atmosphere, and



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JOURNEY TO A SACRED PLACE

by Lorraine Kolankowski

I was blessed to be one of eighteen people from St. Joseph's to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Scott in March 2023. It was an amazing trip filled with many graces. We had Mass together every day and prayed together at each holy place. Our guide was a wonderful Armenian Christian who was well-informed and became like family. Visiting such sacred Biblical sites like Bethlehem, Nazareth, Magdala, the home of Mary Magdalene, Bethany and the Jordan River (where we renewed our baptismal vows) were unbelievable experiences. One of the first days of our pilgrimage was a visit to Cana, the site of Jesus' first miracle. My husband and I had celebrated our 50th anniversary a few months before the trip, and were able to renew our marriage vows in Cana with three other couples. It was a special grace for all of us that day!



Later that same day we went on a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Just standing on the shore where Jesus stood, being on the actual Sea where Peter and the apostles fished and Jesus calmed the storm was very emotional for me. The entire week was leading up to the day before we left when we walked the Via Dolorosa and had Mass together in the Tomb of the Holy Sepulchre. We arrived in the Old City of Jerusalem by 4 AM; we took turns carrying a wooden cross throughout the quiet empty cobblestoned streets of the old City. Our guide explained that later in the day these streets would be crowded with open shops and people, but we were able to reverently pray as we walked where Jesus walked and reflect on His love for us as we took turns carrying the cross and prayed the Stations of the Cross. We then entered the Church of the Holy Sepulchre where Jesus' body was laid after his death. We were so blessed to have Mass with Fr. Scott when it was relatively quiet and we could prayerfully celebrate in this most sacred place before the crowds arrived. There are no words to describe what it was like to touch the stone where Jesus had been laid. A pilgrimage is described as a "journey to a sacred place" and this pilgrimage to the Holy Land was truly a sacred journey.

Ministry Fair (Continued)

that she has found the adage, "Singing at Mass is praying twice" to be true! While these are just few of the ministries offered here at St. Joseph's, there are many others—including Faith Formation, the Holy Name Society, Social Concerns Committee, and the Liturgical Environment Committee. There are also English and Spanish Prayer Groups, English and Spanish RCIA Groups, and English and Spanish Baptism Groups. You have been blessed with talents and gifts! Please consider offering them to God through the various ministries here at St. Joseph's. You will have the opportunity to both be a blessing, and to be blessed through your sharing.



St. Joseph's Festival 2023

Smiles, good times, and good food were plentiful at St. Joseph's Parish Festival, held the weekend of September 15-17. Blessed with good weather, church and community members were able to enjoy the "bouncy houses" provided by Bounce Party Mania. Featured were a Corn Maze, Obstacle Course, and the very popular Toxic Meltdown! Although those were best-suited to the "big kids" among us, the little ones had plenty to do as well. The Disney-themed "Mickey's Park" was a big hit! Each bounce house was staffed by volunteers from our parish who took tickets and helped festival-goers enjoy themselves safely.

The International Food Festival highlighted Filipino, Columbian, and Mexican cuisines, and offered an array of sweet treats, beverages, and traditional carnival fare. Food booths were staffed by members of various church ministries and volunteers, to whom the St. Joseph's family is most grateful for their service.

The highlight of this year's festival was the mariachi group who entertained at the Saturday afternoon festival opening. Their beautiful music echoed throughout the streets of Bogota, delighting everyone! 50/50 raffles were held each day, in addition to the main raffle drawing at the end of the festival. The weekend's activities raised a whopping \$19,872 for the parish!



Fr. Scott, Fr. Eduardo, and the Pastoral Council would like to express their gratitude to the local businesses that sponsored the festival, all those who donated their time and/or treasure to make the event the success that it was, and to those volunteer coordinators who made sure every aspect of the festival went smoothly, because each booth, bounce house, ticket table, and vendor table was well-staffed. We are blessed as a community to have all of you come together for the good of St. Joseph's Church.



Mi segunda experiencia en Tierra Santa

Mi segunda experiencia en Tierra Santa durante este año fue un viaje verdaderamente conmovedor. A pesar de que ya había tenido la oportunidad de visitar varios de los lugares que recorrí en esta ocasión, regresar a ellos evoco en mí una serie de sentimientos encontrados, lo que transformó por completo la experiencia del peregrinaje, haciendo que se sintiera completamente nuevo. Fue como si cada lugar envolviera un significado especialmente nuevo.

La vivencia de participar en la celebración eucarística dentro de la tumba de Jesús en el Santo Sepulcro fue un momento abrumador y único. Iniciar con el vía crucis a lo largo de la Vía Dolorosa y concluir con la Santa Misa dentro de ese santo y sagrado lugar fue una experiencia que no se puede comparar con la primera vez que estuve allí. La atmósfera de reverencia y espiritualidad que rodea este lugar es simplemente inigualable. Además, mi visita al Hospital de Holy Family en Jerusalén dejó una profunda impresión en mí. Este hospital tiene una misión especial, brindando atención médica a mujeres embarazadas y sus bebés, independientemente de su origen étnico, religión o estatus económico. Su dedicación a la maternidad segura y la atención a mujeres embarazadas en una región con conflictos y tensiones políticas es realmente inspiradora.

Ver a mujeres que, en muchas ocasiones, se encontraban en situaciones de escasos recursos, acudiendo allí para dar a luz en un entorno digno y seguro para ellas y sus bebés, fue conmovedor. Observar la entrega y el amor con el que las personas del hospital ayudaban a estas mujeres, independientemente de su origen, religión o circunstancias personales, fue un testimonio conmovedor de la compasión humana y el compromiso inquebrantable de cada individuo que allí trabaja.

Este Segundo peregrinaje en Tierra Santa no solo me permitió revivir los lugares sagrados, sino que también me abrió los ojos a nuevas perspectivas y realidades que no había apreciado completamente en mi primera visita. Fue un viaje que una vez más tocó profundamente mi corazón y reforzó mi Fe y la humanidad en su sentido más amplio, especialmente a través de la admirable misión de Holy Family Hospital. Ahora, la misión de llevar Esperanza, Amor y Coraje a un mundo incierto, quedo marcado en mi corazón.

Finalmente, fue un viaje transformador que me permitió redescubrir la espiritualidad de los lugares sagrados y conocer una realidad humana conmovedora a través de la admirable misión del Hospital. Fue un recordatorio de la importancia de la compasión y el servicio desinteresado en un mundo a menudo marcado por divisiones y diferencias. En mi corazón, llevaré estas vivencias como un recordatorio de la belleza de la diversidad y la fuerza de la Fe. Estoy muy agradecida con Dios por esta experiencia única y espero que todos encuentren la oportunidad de explorar y enriquecer sus propias vidas a través de encuentros y experiencias similares.

Dios les bendiga! *Ivette Aguasvivas*

Spanish and English Versions

My second experience in the Holy Land

My second experience in the Holy Land during this year was truly a touching one. Although I had already had the opportunity to visit several of the places I visited on this occasion, returning to them evoked a series of mixed emotions in me, completely transforming the pilgrimage experience and making it feel entirely new. It was as if each place held a uniquely new meaning. The experience of participating in the Eucharistic celebration inside the tomb of Jesus at the Holy Sepulcher was an overwhelming and unique moment. Beginning with the Via Crucis along the Via Dolorosa and concluding with the Holy Mass inside that holy and sacred place was an experience that cannot be compared to the first time I was there. The atmosphere of reverence and spirituality surrounding this place is simply unparalleled.

Additionally, my visit to the Holy Family Hospital in Jerusalem left a deep impression on me. This hospital has a special mission, providing medical care to pregnant women and their babies, regardless of their ethnic background, religion, or economic status. Their dedication to safe motherhood and care for pregnant women in a region with conflicts and political tensions is truly inspiring.

Seeing women who, in many cases, were in challenging circumstances, coming there to give birth in a dignified and safe environment for themselves and their babies was moving. Observing the dedication

and love with which the hospital staff assisted these women, regardless of their background, religion, or personal circumstances, was a touching testament to human compassion and the unwavering commitment of each individual working there.

This second pilgrimage in the Holy Land not only allowed me to revisit the sacred places but also opened my eyes to new perspectives and realities that I had not fully appreciated on my first visit. It was a journey that once again deeply touched my heart and strengthened my Faith and humanity in its broadest sense, especially through the admirable mission of Holy Family Hospital. Now, the mission of bringing Hope, Love, and Courage to an uncertain world is engraved in my heart.

Finally, it was a transforming journey that allowed me to rediscover the spirituality of sacred places and to witness a touching human reality through the admirable mission of the Hospital. It was a reminder of the importance of compassion and selfless service in a world often marked by divisions and differences. In my heart, I will carry these experiences as a reminder of the beauty of diversity and the strength of Faith. I am very grateful to God for this unique experience and hope that everyone finds the opportunity to explore and enrich their own lives through similar encounters and experiences.

God bless you All! *Ivette Aguasvivas*

