

A Message from Fr. Darrel

Please reflect on this before going on to the information below.

God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good; I shall do His work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments. Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away. If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him, in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him. If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him. He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about. He may take away my friends. He may throw me among strangers. He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me. Still, He knows what He is about.

The entire project that we are about to embark on involves complete trust in God providing for our needs. The task was getting all the pieces together that God had been providing all summer. This plan has been in the works for a while and is part of an effort to grow a more faith enriching school. This summer provided the opportunity to lay out a plan that began in January of 2021; titled reimaging Catholic education at St. Joseph. Part of that plan was to look at the schedule for ways to give teachers space to grow in their abilities to set their teaching on solid catholic thought, avoiding the modern errors in thought. The final part was an ongoing discussion of teacher compensation. This has been a concern of Mrs. O'Mara since 2017. With all of our major needs covered we have the opportunity to invest in our teachers. This investment is going to involve each of you to respond with gifts of time, talent and treasure to maintain this investment. It will require a 10% increase in overall financial support. This can be achieved in many ways, not just physical money. Volunteering at events, inviting others to join our school as parents and students. We have taken this concept and in the current situation modified it to fit a way forward that helps each teacher to accomplish the new reality. This way is not going to line up with the way of the world, ours is going to be trusting in God's providential guidance. He alone will grant us success, it will not be the work of our hands but of His. God has shown us the way forward. It takes time to coordinate and I want to thank you for your patience.

To the Heights, (*Verso Alto*)

Fr. Darrel Kempf

Letter to St. Joseph Families August 16, 2021

Dear St. Joseph School Families,

No one could be more grateful than I in recognizing the accomplishments of those individuals who assisted St. Joseph Catholic School through a time which included many adverse effects.

Fr. Kempf and the Parish Staff over these months have provided much needed support and prayers. Both Mrs. Pline and Mr. Schneider worked towards making August 23rd, our first day of school, welcoming. Thank you!

But it was the combined efforts of Mrs. Hafner, Mrs. Thelen, and Mr. Weber, which was instrumental in bringing all things together and implementing a plan and great start for the 2021-2022 school year. We are blessed by your presence!

Staff changes have indeed taken place but a formidable team has come together under the guidance of the administration and staff to assist them and provide for our students' needs.

We traversed through a year that limited our time together. We will continue to strive to be a family again. As such, the staff has chosen "The Holy Family" as our theme, in continuation of proclaiming the "Year of St. Joseph".

The following staff assignments are:

- Mrs. Debra Thelen 7/8th Homeroom Science and Math
- Mr. Ryan Weber 6th Homeroom ELA and Social Studies
- Mrs. Casey Zimmer 4/5th Homeroom (New Hire)
- Mrs. Mary Smith 2/3rd Homeroom (New Hire)
- Mrs. Kerri Hafner Kindergarten/First Grade Homeroom with teaching assistance from Mrs. Alison Klein and Mr. Caleb Heckman (New Hires)
- Mrs. Beth Thelen Young Fives with teaching assistance (New Hire)
- Mrs. Kim Pung 8th Grade Algebra (New Hire)
- Mrs. Catherine Weber Music (Thursdays)
- Mrs. Tara Thelen Physical Education (Wednesdays)
- Mrs. Alison Klein Art (Fridays)
- Ms. Nickie Wentworth Technology (New Hire)
- Mrs. Monica Mabe Religion 1st-5th
- Father Kempf and Mr. Caleb Heckman 6th-8th Religion

Due to a shortage of bus drivers, the Pewamo-Westphalia School System is unable to provide bussing for any sharetime classes (this does not apply to Religion Class).

Other changes to our weekly schedule include our Children's Masses, which will take place on Mondays at 8:00a and Fridays at 12:00p followed by the Friday Schedule (please see at the end of this letter).

One thing that has not changed is how students start their school day. Students, other than Kindergarteners and Young Fives, will go directly to the church each day for Prayer and Reflection (on August 23rd students will be directed to their assigned seating).

To allow our staff to integrate and facilitate learning, we will be conducting our Friday afternoons differently. Lunch/recess will begin at 11:15a (only on Fridays), Mass at 12:00p, and followed by Adoration.

While our teachers work collaboratively in planning the following week's lessons, our students will be involved in planned activities which include: tutoring, getting caught up on school work, guest presenters, and activities that focus on our children's Spiritual needs.

As our children gain knowledge and required skills, we welcome parent and family volunteers who wish to be stewards of our parish by offering up their time, talent, and treasure. Through coordinated efforts we will allow our children to be strengthened in their Catholic faith.

Most recently, parents received an informational letter in regards to how St. Joseph Catholic School will conduct its COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. Because we wish to keep large crowds to a minimum, we will not be conducting a traditional Open House. Families are encouraged to drop off school supplies and check out classrooms from 4:30p-5:30p on Sunday, August 22nd. There will be a Mass at 5:30p, followed by a presentation from guest speaker, Cami Mann on "Keeping Faith Alive Through the Year".

Many thanks to all who allowed us the opportunity and patience to return to what we expect to be a better year. See you Monday, August 23rd!

Disciples in Christ,

Mrs. Patricia O'Mara

Friday Schedule

The Friday schedule is to provide opportunities for growth both spiritual and communal.

7:40-11:15 Classes
11:20-11:50 Lunch/Recess
12-12:45 Mass

12:55-1:20
-Adoration 6-8 grades
-Sacred Art 3-5 grades
-Free time K-2 grades

1:30-1:55
-Adoration 3-5 grades
-Sacred Art K-2 grades
-Free time 6-8 grades

2:05-2:30
-Adoration K-2 grades
-Sacred Art 6-8 grades
-Free time 3-5 grades

Adoration session will be led by Fr. Darrel
Sacred Art session will be led by Caleb Heckman
Free Time session will be led by volunteers

Free time is the opportunity for the students to complete or catch up on homework or studies.
Sacred art includes education of the student in the forms of artistic expression from a catholic worldview such as writing, sacred images, statues, music, etc.

Once a month there will be an all school event on certain Fridays.

September 10	Bike-a-thon
October 29	Halloween
November 12	Cemetery visit (Indulgence)
December 10	Caroling
January 7	Christmas Celebration
February 11	Valentine's Party (What is Love?)
March 18	Stations of the Cross (Presentation on Indulgences)
April 8	Passion of Christ Play
May 6	May Crowning
June 3	Field Day

May the Lord bless us as we continue to offer the gift of our lives to Him.