MAY 2022 | ISSUE 9

THE CARPENTER'S NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Oshawa

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5:00 pm *confessions 4-4:45 PM*

Sunday - 9:00 & 11:00 Am

Monday - Saturday 9:00 am

First Fridays -Mass & Adoration - 7:00 pm

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PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

The peace and joy of the risen Christ be in your heart! I hope you are enjoying this blissful time of Eastertide, reliving the resurrection of Christ in your life. May his grace abide by you and your family always.

We thank God for the special day of our patron saint, Saint Joseph the Worker, May 1st. Even as I write, plans are in place to make the day a memorable one for us all with music, food, memories and games after the 11am Mass on May 1st.

It is also a special month as we fondly dedicate it to the Blessed Virgin Mary, being the month of May. We shall celebrate this too, after a whole month of prayers in May, communal rosaries before all our weekday Masses and particularly individual rosaries/devotion to the Blessed Mother, with a night of rosary and the Eucharist on the 31st of May, at 7pm. Please mark your calendars.

This month, especially May 1 to 6, is also dedicated to Catholic Education. Please remember our students and their teachers in your prayers particularly during that week. We shall pray for them during our Weekend Masses of May 1st.

Wishing you much joy through the month of May and always. May the Blessed Virgin Mary and our patron Saint Joseph, intercede for us all.

Fr. Victor Amole Pastor

PARISH FEAST: ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER - MAY 1ST

Congratulations on our parish feast day and celebration of our patron saint, Saint Joseph the Worker. May he continue to intercede for us all.

On this special day which providentially falls on a Sunday, we shall celebrate together with tons of fun, music and food after our 11am Mass. See you there!

GOSPEL INSPIRATION

MARY: HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Written by Fr. Victor

We never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour his Mother, and we honour her simply and solely to honour him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her Son. -Saint Louis Marie de Montfort, True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin, #94.

You probably know the joke of the boy who asked God for a bicycle as a gift at Christmas. He was full of optimism as the birthday of Christ approached. He kept looking under the Christmas tree everyday till the 24th of December but none of the wrapped gifts resembled a bicycle. Immediately after the midnight Mass, he rushed home hoping his bicycle would have arrived at least now at the savior's birth. There was nothing like a bicycle gift in sight. He had a last hope it would arrive the next day, the Boxing Day, and so woke up early and was the first in the living room. Yet there was no sign of a bicycle.

In disappointment the little boy sobbed all the way back to his bedroom. He had just had his first communion that year and had been told of the efficacy of prayers to Jesus, but apparently Jesus was not interested in giving him a bicycle, he thought. As he walked disappointedly to the bedroom to mourn his discontent with Jesus, he passed by his grandmother's room typically adorned with all sorts of statues, prayer cards, rosaries and candles. The little boy took a glance at all these ornaments of prayers, hissed and was to pass on to his bedroom. But at some thoughts he stopped short, returned to grandma's room, grabbed a statue of Mary and ran to his bedroom. After hiding the statue safely under his bed, he looked up and with a tone of confidence said, "Jesus, give me a bicycle or you will not see your mother again!"

The reaction of the boy in his frustration is hilarious. But the foundational reason for such a reaction is not merely hilarious, it is didactic. It is a realization of the importance of Mary to Jesus and the connection of that importance to salvation history. The Scripture bears us witness about this connection. At a time when Jesus himself avowed that he was not quite ready to begin his ministry and miracles, it took the intercession of Mary to avert a situation of shame and embarrassment for the newly wedded couple in Cana, Galilee. Her intercession changed the course of things even as Jesus changed jars of water into wine.1 With the intercession of "the blessed amongst women", Jesus gave the very first sign which marked the beginning of his ministry. The mystery of Mary as a major link to the Savior could never be overemphasized. Hans Urs Von Balthasar and Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger have shown us the intricate bond that exists between the salvific mission of Christ and the choice of Mary as a conduit for the saviour.2 Mary did not just accept to bear the Savior with her fiat. Her acceptance of the motherhood role made her the rich soil into which the virile seed was planted, a soil which yielded grains in its hundreds. The nature of that good soil therefore cannot possibly be disconnected from the virility of the grain. The intercessory nature of Mary is a constant in the Christian conception of her maternal role. It is this same intercessory role that the Church, the body of Christ, lives out in her witness to the risen Savior.

The Church is equally fruitful when "she becomes holy soil for the Word," 2 offering life to the world and thus engaging in an intercessory "Marian mystery". In making His choice of a mode to endow the world with the gift of the Savior, God chose Mary. And Christ, in perpetuating his ministry on earth amongst us, chose his Church as the instrument of salvation. The mystery of Mary as the source of grace and that of the Church as an instrument of salvation are therefore both united in the person of Christ in whom alone is our salvation.

The Christian who is serious about his or her faith would necessarily be serious about the mystery of Mary as the help of Christians. Through her, the sun of salvation has broken upon our darkness. From this simple Jewish peasant girl it has pleased God to be born and nurtured in the person of Jesus. If Mary could change the mind of Jesus toward helping the couple at Cana, it would be a smart thing to be close to this woman and seek her intercession. Somewhat, that little boy was right to assume that Jesus would go out of his way to please us for Mary's sake.

Footnotes

 John 2:1-11
See Hans Urs Von Balthasar and Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Mary, the Church at the Source, (Rome: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1997), p. 14ff
Ibid., p. 17

UNIVERSAL INTENTION OF THE POPE

Faith-Filled Young People

We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.



AROUND THE PARISH

MAY 1ST - ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER FEAST DAY

Please refer to the front cover for information on our celebration of our parish feast day. Let us come together to pray and have a joyful time!

MARIAN DEVOTION IN THE MONTH OF MAY

The month of May is one the special months that we particularly dedicate to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Remember to do your devotions especially this month. On the last day of the month, 31st of May at 7pm, we shall by God's grace come together for an evening of Rosary and the celebration of the Eucharist. Save the date.

A WORD OF THANKS

I want to thank all of us for our joint and committed celebration of Easter. I also acknowledge and thank you for your continuous contributions to the parish in cash, kind, prayers and all. Special thanks to those who labored to make our celebration of Easter a beautiful one, especially the choir, ushers, ministers of the Eucharist, the readers, our cantors, Mass servers, Counters and, the many groups who helped with the stations of the Cross and several individuals who the Lord surely knows worked hard for his church with a labor of love for their beloved parish. Indeed thanks to all of you of this great community of St. Joseph the Worker. May our patron saint continue to work in your lives too and that of your families. Amen.

PARISH NEEDS

Many thanks to all of you for your contributions to the good of the church. And particularly to the individuals that have taken up one item or two to sponsor in the list of the needs of the parish. May God replenish you abundantly. Thank you. We have some four items remaining on that list: sponsorship of this parish monthly newsletter (\$500); changing of our lights in the church to led pod lights (\$10,000); Repairs of stairs and walkway at the back of the church (\$30,000) and replacement of steel stairs behind hall and church (\$50,000). We are grateful for your support towards this, either by taking one of the projects or contributing towards it. Tax receipt will be thankfully given for these donations.

MARIAN MOMENTS DONATION DRIVE FOR THE SISTERS OF LIFE

The Chaplaincy is collecting baby items (clothing, diapers, toys, formula etc.) as well as gently used women's items (clothing, shoes, jackets, toiletries) and gift cards during their 'Marian Moments' drive for the Sisters of Life. All donations collected during the entire month of May will be given to the Sisters of Life on behalf of the Oshawa Catholic Chaplaincy. Please drop off all donations during office hours at the front office or kindly place on the white tables on Sundays in the Fr. Gignac Room. Thank you!

TOTUS TUUS

The celebrated Catholic camp program, Totus Tuus (meaning totally yours) is coming to our parish this Summer! It is an excellent Catholic camp program, exciting and full of activities to help the young ones grow in their faith as well as enjoy the summer. It will run from the 3rd to the 8th of July, 2022.

The day camp, for grades 1-6, helps children learn more about the Catholic faith in a caring, fun-filled environment. It is facilitated by highly trained, college-age Totus Tuus missionaries with support from the local Parish Coordinator (assigned by parish/pastor). It runs from Monday to Friday, 8.45am - 2.30pm.

The evening program is designed for students (grades 7-12) who are seeking to deepen their faith and grow in their personal relationship with Jesus. It is facilitated by highly trained, college-age Totus Tuus missionaries, with support from the local Parish Coordinator.

*Please pick up a form for your child or contact the office for more information.

*Registration is \$70 for the day camp (Grades 1-6); \$25 for an additional child in the family. Registration for the evening program (Grades 7-12) is \$25.



CHAPLAINCY NEWS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

May 2022



END OF THE YEAR PARTY

Join us at Mass on May 1st at 11 a.m. Since it is the feast day of our great patron, St. Joseph the Worker, we will be joining the parish in a BBQ immediately after the mass. At 1:30 p.m. we will be making our way over to Harmony Creek Golf Centre where the party continues while playing mini-golf.

ENCOUNTER NIGHT

For the summer months (May-August), Encounter will be joined with the First Friday Devotions at 7 p.m. Join us for Adoration & a social following the Holy Hour with Jesus!



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MARCH FOR LIFE

Join us as we head to Ottawa for the March for Life on May 11th + 12th. Tickets are \$100 per student/alumni and it includes transportation there and back, a youth conference ticket, hotel stay and meals. Fight for life alongside your friends as our chaplaincy holds the National March for Life banner which leads the March and Rally through the streets of downtown Ottawa! Our very own campus minister Conchita will be singing the National anthem on parliament hill. Come on out and join us for this overnight adventure!

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WOMEN'S GROUP HIGH TEA

Calling all the ladies! Join us for Saturday 9 a.m. mass followed by OCC-style High Tea in the chaplaincy centre. Wear your floral dresses and bring your favourite tea cup! Get ready to have delicious fruit teas, cucumber cream cheese sandwiches and sweet dessert treats.

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MARIAN FEAST PACKING PARTY

What better day to pack all the donations from our Marian Moments Donation Drive than on the Feast Day of the Visitation? Come join us at the parish at 5:00 p.m. to sort and pack all the donations for the Sisters of Life. Following that, join us for Rosary and Mass. To complete this great celebration, we'll be having a milkshakes after Mass!

MARIAN MOMENTS DONATION DRIVE For the sisters of life

For the month of May, our Chaplaincy is holding a donation drive! We will be collecting baby items (clothing, diapers, toys, formula etc.) as well as gently used women's items (clothing, shoes, jackets, toiletries) and gift cards for the Sisters of Life. Please drop off all donations during office hours at the front office or kindly place on the white tables on Sundays in the Fr. Gignac Room. See above for Packing Party details. Thanks friends!



Mary's Monastery Men's Group



Oshawa Catholic Chaplaincy was the largest chaplaincy group in attendance at the Cardinal's Mass for graduating campus ministry students. Way to rep our chaplaincy and GTA east friends!



A special congratulations is extended to all our chaplaincy students graduating this year. We are so proud of you. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your journey as a student and we wish you warm welcome to the alumni community! For those graduating who have not received their chaplaincy grad gift yet, please contact us to arrange pick up!





May 1- St Joseph the Worker

May 2 - Athanasius

"You cannot put straight in others what is warped in yourself."

May 3 - St Saint Philip & Saint James

"The wisdom that is from above first indeed is chaste, then peaceable,

modest, full of mercy and good fruits."-St. James

May 4 -Blessed Marie-Leonie Paradis

"I wish above all to be fortified by humiliations."

May 6 -Saint François Laval

"But in the heart of all this turmoil, we must not be demoralized; if men have the power to destroy, Our Lord's hand is infinitely more powerful to build. We need only be faithful to Him and let Him work."

May 8 -Bl. Catherine of St Augustine

"We are between life and death. No one is sure of being guaranteed escape from the fury of the barbarians. All this, I assure you, does not frighten me. I feel my heart disposed towards suffering for all that will please my Good Master to send me..."

May 10 - St John of Avila

"Turn yourself round like a piece of clay and say to the Lord:

I am clay, and You, Lord, the potter. Make of me what You will."

May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima

"Our Lady: "Do you wish to offer yourselves to God to endure all the sufferings that He may be pleased to send you, as both an act of reparation for the sins with which He is offended and an act of supplication for the conversion of sinners?"

May 20 - St Bernardine of Siena

"Whenever the divine favour chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfil the task at hand."

May 21 - Saint Eugène de Mazenod

"I wish I could pass my life at the foot of the holy tabernacles in which our adorable Saviour dwells."

May 22 - St Saint Rita of Cascia

"Most Holy Sacred Heart of Jesus, help my heart to preserve in all that is holy."

May 24 - Mary Help of Christians

May 25 - St Bede the Venerable

"He alone loves the Creator perfectly who manifests a pure love for his neighbour."

May 26 - St Phillip Neri

"A joyful heart is more easily made perfect than a downcast one."

May 27 - St Saint Augustine of Canterbury

"God, in His promises to hear our prayers, is desirous to bestow Himself upon us; if you find anything better than Him, ask it but if you ask anything beneath Him, you put an affront upon Him and hurt yourself, by preferring to Him, a creature which He created."

May 29 - Saint Paul VI

May 31 - The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

STORY OF A SAINT

Saint of the Month: <u>Saint Rita of Cascia</u> <u>Lived</u>: 1381-May 22 1457 <u>Feast</u>: May 22 <u>Patron</u>: Desperate Situations, difficult marriages, healing of wounds, loneliness, parents

Rita was born in an Italian village just outside of Cascia that was wracked by constant feuding. She married Paolo Mancini and the couple had two sons before her husband was violently murdered.Rita forgave his murderers and sought reconciliation. But her teenage sons stubbornly planned their revenge.Rita prayed that God would prevent them from perpetuating the tragic cycle of violence. Both of her sons fell ill, their hearts still full of hate. But before they died, they repented their desire for revenge.

Alone in the world,Rita sought to enter the convent but was adamantly refused. Legends hint of a miracle that changed the sisters' minds:perhaps that Rita was able to reconcile two feuding families, or that three saints miraculously led her past the barred doors of the convent into the chapel where the surprised sisters found her. Whatever the miracle, the Sisters finally allowed Rita to enter. As a religious, Rita's desire to share everything with Jesus deepened. Praying with this desire before the crucifix one Good Friday, Rita felt a thorn from the crucifix's crown of thorns mystically pierce her forehead.The painful wound remained with her for the rest of her life.Rita was canonized on May 24 1900 by Pope Leo XIII who proclaimed her "The Precious Pearl of Umbria".





By Bea Ghiringello

Saint Joseph has been for many centuries known as a very powerful intercessor for many saints. Even here in Canada we have the greatest example of the Oratory in Montreal, from its beginnings to the final details of its construction. Who is St Joseph really and what is the biggest lesson we can learn from him? Let us start with St Joseph's most chaste heart. The heart of a man who was granted so many virtues and graces to aid fulfill God's will on Earth. Him bearing the titles of Guardian of the Redeemer and Spouse of the Mother of God is not but a heroic task. He had to learn how to surrender fully to God's providence and Will and to love deeply and completely in the purest ways to be able to fulfill his mission on this world.

His most chaste heart has become a go to place when prayer and life become like a little way of the Cross. When I was little I only knew him as Mary's husband. Though I did not fully understand that either. God, on the other hand, had other plans for me, and now St. Joseph has become an essential part of my life.

When I graduated from high school, a longing to go abroad had already been planted in my heart but I had to wait for a while to be able to see this blessing. After 7 years of many trials and many closed doors worldwide, I was granted the chance to come to Canada. Not only did I find my faith able to blossom here, but I found a wonderful community under the gaze of Saint Joseph.

I did not even know Oshawa, I just knew I was going to a town an hour away from Toronto. My first year here taught me how lukewarm I was in my faith, and how not putting God first in your life impacts your soul and your interactions with others. During my second year in college not only did I get involved in the Chaplaincy but worked a few hours a week in the parish office as an assistant. Every time I closed up the church. I used to sit down for a few minutes in the church and asked God to show me what His Will was in my life. Around the same time I started questioning who was really Saint Joseph and why God had allowed me to be in a place named after this saint.

In early 2019, a lot of unknowns were facing me and I was very reluctant to trust in God's mercy. For some reason I decided to pray the 30 day prayer to St. Joseph for a relative's soul and apparently for myself as well. My heart was searching to know this quiet saint more and to be able to learn how to love God more freely. Around day 15, my honest and true request was prompted during prayer. I asked St. Joseph to teach me who he really was and to send someone that could aid me to grow in my faith and pursue with zeal my journey with Jesus.

When you ask St. Joseph for something, and as the artisan he was in life, he gives you exactly what you request and usually tailors it to its best. The exact week I had finished the 30 day prayer, he sent me not one but two people that have been essential for my growth in my faith, with the exact characteristics I had requested from him. Not only did he not stop there but has become a permanent and persistent saint for the past three years.

Through a pandemic, one of my parent's rough diagnosis, surgery and treatment while I am thousands of miles away, and a lot more very painful life-changing decisions that had to be taken in less than a month, St. Joseph's presence was more constant than ever. All of these events happened while my Permanent Residence application was in process. Not only did St. Joseph come to my aid countless times when I cried out, but he made himself known that it was him because of the gentleness in how things were solved. After so many months of unknowns and surrender to God's ultimate decision, everything came through always on very important feast days relating to Our Lady and St Joseph. This certainly was his definite seal that he was interceding unceasingly for me. I have not lacked food, home and heating throughout these years. Neither have I lacked a community, a family that has taken me in as if I was their own and a place I can belong.

Go to St. Joseph, he bears so many titles for a reason. He protects you from bad company, you do not lack what you truly need, he is extremely generous. He waits tirelessly for us to recourse to his aid. To ask him to teach us how he loved Jesus and Mary. He is such a man of virtue and such a role model of a man that is deeply needed in our society at this very moment. Consecrate yourself to him and specially to his beloved Mary and nothing will disappoint you even through rough times in this valley of Tears.

He was a husband, a father, a coworker, a friend, a son, a devout man, an immigrant in a foreign land, and an ordinary man that did extraordinary things thanks to his willingness to consume himself in God's love. He is the biggest intercessor after our Lady if you ask with a true honest heart. Most of all he is humble and gentle in the way he usually intercedes for us. How could Jesus not hear the pleas of the man that helped him so much when he took on humanity and dwelt among us? St. Joseph's life revolved around his two favorite hearts, the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart even until his death. St Joseph's most Chaste heart still echoes through eternity asking us to fall deeply in love with his beloved hearts. He stands ready to aid us in our frail humanity, which he faced himself, on growing deeper in love for Jesus and Mary . To this day he is a giant in the spiritual life, but a silent gentle one. As silent as a morning mist in the spring, so necessary for the flowers and plants blooming process, he becomes an instrument of God's love in our lives.

Hardware

A shoeshine boy was plying his trade in New York's Grand Central Station. A silver medal danced at his neck as he slapped his shine cloth, again and again, across a man's shoes.

"Sonny," said the man curiously, "what's the hardware around your neck?"

"It's a medal of the mother of Jesus," the boy replied.

"Why her medal?" said the man. "She's no different from your mother." "Could be," said the boy, "but there's a real big difference between her son and me."

The boy's devotion to Mary, the mother of Jesus, invites me to ask: What role does Mary play in my life? How might she play a even bigger role in my life?



HOW TO CONTINUE GIVING

We know that many parishioners would like to continue to donate to the parish on a regular basis during this time. As a non-profit organization, our parish relies heavily on your financial assistance, but especially since we are unable to open for Mass due to the current health crisis. Here are some ways to continue giving:

Secure Mailboxes at the Parish

If you would like to make your usual weekly donation or otherwise support us in this regard, we invite you to make a donation at the parish.

We now have TWO secure mailboxes available for our parishioners.

The mailboxes are locked and under 24 hour surveillance so your donations are secure and will be checked daily.

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING (PAG)

If you are interested in pre-authorized giving, please contact the parish office to obtain a registration form. Once the form is completed, feel free to email the form along with a scanned copy or photo of a voided cheque to development@archtoronto.org for processing. Contributions would then be withdrawn from your bank account on the 20th of each month.

Online Giving

If you would prefer to donate online, there are various options available:

1. Contribute via credit card as a one-time or recurring contribution

2. Contribute via online banking by emailing your name, address, parish name and municipality (e.g. Durham and Scarborough) to campaign@archtoronto.org, in response to which the Archdiocese of Toronto will email you account information which you can use to set up the Archdiocese as a payee for the purposes of online banking. Your one-time or recurring gift will then be forwarded to our parish.

We thank all of our parishioners for their generous donations during this difficult time.

WILLS

Do you know a bequest in your Will to our Church is an acknowledgment of your returning to God a portion of the gifts He has bestowed on you during your life-time. Charitable bequests can have a favourable impact on your overall estate plan and positively affect gifts you make to your loved ones. Gift of securities too can support your parish. Please call the office to find out more or see https://www.archtoronto.org/en/offices-and-ministries/social-justice-outreach/development-and-sharelife/home/planned-giving/

BUILDING FUND SUNDAY

Kindly remember your donations towards maintaining our building and structures. Our Building Fund Collection is this Sunday being the 1st Sunday of the month.

CATHOLIC MOM'S GROUP

"Motherhood is a woman's vocation. It is an eternal vocation, and it is also a contemporary vocation... We must do everything in order that woman may merit love and veneration. We must do everything in order that children, the family and society may see in her that dignity that Christ saw." Saint John Paul II

Come join St. Joseph's Catholic Moms Group. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 26th at 7:30 pm.



Email: sjw@catholicmomsgroup.com | Also check out www.catholicmomsgroup.com

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PARISH STAFF

Rev. Victor Amole, Pastor

Mary Lou Barrese, Office Manager

Mike Ethier, Custodian and Sacristan

Shannon Hawkyard, Campus Minister

Conchita D'Souza, Campus Minister

CONTACT US

P: 905-432-2300 E: stjosephtheworkeros@archtoronto.org W: stjosephtheworkeros.archtoronto.org 1100 Mary St. N, Oshawa ON L1G 5G8 Canada

Oshawa Catholic Chaplaincy oshawacatholic@archtoronto.org https://oshawacatholic.ca

• • •



CELL: 289.314.5873 BUS: 905.427.6522 Email: lenarddiaz@royallepage.ca Web: lenarddiaz.royallepage.ca

LENARD DIAZ

ROYAL LEPAGE ROYAL CONNECT REALTY, BIOKRAACE INDEFENDENTLY OWNED & OPERATED 335 Bayly SL W, Ajax ON L15 6M2

MAY 1ST: FEAST OF SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER

We look forward to celebrating a Family day together after the 11am Mass on our Parish Feast Day, May 1st. More details on the front cover.

CONTRIBUTIONS

If you are interested in contributing towards this new parish initiative (i.e., the printing costs associated with this publication) please contact the Parish Office. We thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity. If you are interested in advertising your professional services in the Carpenter's Newsletter, please contact the parish office for more details.



TOTUS TUUS 2022

Totus Tuus is a Catholic summer camp that is coming once again to our parish and this year it will be from July 3-8, 2022. However, there is a lot of preparation that goes into this event as well as a lot of support that is needed to make this camp a success. Your generosity is greatly appreciated when it comes to the following needs:

SPONSOR A MEAL

Either host the missionaries for an dinner meal at your home or purchase a meal for them to have at the parish.

SPONSOR A CHILD

Give the gift of the week of camp to a child in need from our parish of St. Joseph the Worker. For more details please contact the parish office regarding how you can contribute to sponsor a child.

We cannot thank you enough for your support for the children and youth of our parish. May God our Father bless you abundantly for your generosity!

VOLUNTEER AT THE CAMP

We are in need of putting together a volunteer team that can assist the Totus Tuus parish coordinator for the safety and success of this program. Please pick up a volunteer form from the front office. All volunteers are subject to a mandatory screening.

REGISTER FOR TOTUS TUUS

Registration packages are available at the parish office. Please drop off your completed registration forms with your payment to the parish office at your earliest convenience so that our team can start preparing for this summer. *Please see Page 3 for more details