



## St. Joseph Parish

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November 2009

### **We Are St. Joseph!**

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph,

Fiscal year 2008-2009 was a year marked by Transitions, Growth and Celebration. It was a year of learning, discovering, and settling into our new church and campus; a year of pride as we rejoiced in being the people of St. Joseph, a vibrant, Catholic community.

#### **A Year of Transition**

From March 15, 2008 until July 2009 we settled in, adjusted and became comfortable with our new place of worship and our new campus. We have discovered how long it takes to get to Mass, to celebrate Mass, and how many ministers it takes to help the Mass to flow smoothly. We have adjusted from three Sunday Masses to two. We have established a new religious education center for our Sunday faith formation programs. We have embraced a gathering space to visit with friends and family.

#### **A Year of Growth**

As we embraced our new church and property, many parishioners shared time, talent and personal equipment, from rakes and shovels to tractors and tillers to dust mops and cleaning rags, to help care for our buildings and grounds. This care in and around the church, religious education house and festival area has helped establish a beautiful complement to our new church. Many volunteers helped construct, clean and prepare the festival warming kitchen, pavilion, barn and grounds for our 30th annual Festival. Work by our Guild of Gardeners and other parish volunteers, the Boy Scouts and landscapers, as well as the Peace Pole project created a warm and welcoming exterior to complement the warm and welcoming spirit of the parishioners on the interior.

#### **A Year of Celebration**

The past year was one of celebration with sacred events and social events helping us to enjoy our community. We offered adult formation opportunities, including a Parish Mission, speakers on liturgy and theology, and an evening of sacred song with John Michael Talbot. Our first Festival at the Corner welcomed friends and family and began with a night of smiles and songs with Three Men and a Tenor. The Festival weekend was packed with classic cars, kids' games, card games, a variety of new and old favorite foods, and great entertainment.

Yes! We are St. Joseph! A growing, faith-filled, generous community of active Catholics who have accepted the call and challenge of a 21st century vision of growth. As your pastor, I am most grateful for your generous response of time, talent and treasure to witness faith to children, youth and adults, to care for our buildings and grounds, and to contribute to our Stairway to the Future.

Shalom,

Fr. Brendan J. Walsh