

# ST. CLARE of ASSISI PARISH

September/October 2015

## Come Together as a Community at the Chicken Dinner and Raffle Event

Prayer and worship is an integral part of our faith, but reaching out to others in fellowship allows us to share that faith with our parish family. Through events like parish dinners, St. Clare of Assisi parishioners can support the parish community, get to know new members and spend time with old friends. This year, the parish is bringing back the Chicken Dinner as a new event to bring our community together.

"It used to be an annual event, but the parish hasn't done it for a while," says Jenni Coplien, a member of the Parish Dinner Committee. "This year, we decided we'd start it up again. We formed the committee to plan these dinner events for our parish, and started with the fish fries earlier this year. Now we are having the Chicken Dinner, and in the spring, we plan to have a volunteer appreciation meal."

The Chicken Dinner will be held on Sunday, Sept. 20, and will serve up barbecue chicken, baked potatoes, applesauce, rolls, dessert, and beverages. The food will be prepared and served by committee members and parish volunteers.

"Volunteers will be in the kitchen area, serving the meals and boxing up carry-outs," Jenni says. "We also ask parishioners to make homemade



desserts, and will have someone running the dessert area and a beverage area. We will also have a raffle at the dinner, which will be held at 12 p.m. Msgr. Larry will do the raffle drawing, and you do not have to be present to win. The money from this event will go into our fund for future dinners and parish events."

One of the best things about these events is the community spirit that is present throughout.

"I think it's a great way to feel like part of the community, and to interact with different people," Jenni says. "Life is so busy and so fast, but these are the kind of mo-

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# Supporting the Efforts of the Sister Water Project

## *A Note From Sr. Kathy Knipper, OSF*

Dear Rita, Jane, Parishioners, and Students,

**W**e are very pleased to let you know that two wells have been completed due to your most generous donations during your 2015 Lenten project. The people of Tanzania are very grateful to St. Clare of Assisi Parish and St. Victor School for donating the funds that made the construction of these two new wells possible.

The villages that received new wells are Kungwe-Shuleni and Kungwe-Mng'ongoni. Before the installation of the new wells, the villagers would fetch water from a swamp, thus the water source was posing a great menace to the public health due to high contamination. Water was also highly needed in these villages to support a local dispensary for various med-

ical treatments. We have attached a few pictures of the construction of these wells.

Thank you for supporting our efforts in mutual solidarity with those so desperately in need of clean drinking water. The impact on the lives of villagers has been very significant, and we are most grateful for your commitment to supporting water projects globally.

Feel free to visit our website – [www.osfdbq.org](http://www.osfdbq.org) – to view updates about our Sister Water Project.

In Gratitude,  
Sr. Kathy Knipper, OSF  
Sister Water Coordinator  
Sisters of St. Francis Vice President



*A Letter From Our Pastor*

## September: An Ongoing Opportunity to Change the World

Dear Parishioners,

In his letters, St. Paul often began by greeting his “brothers and sisters.” Every time I read one of these letters, it reminds me that you and I truly are sisters and brothers in the Body of Christ, the Church, but especially here in our own parish. We need to understand that we are indeed a family, and the way we see and treat one another is fundamental to the health and happiness of this family.

Our spiritual family doesn't stop at the walls of our church, but rather, extends to include every man and woman created in God's image and likeness. You may be familiar with the term “Catholic Social Teaching,” which is built on a commitment to the poor. These are the beliefs that guide Catholics on how to apply the faith to all aspects of life, and they lay the framework for the Church's teachings on the dignity and sacredness of human life. Once we make a commitment to be disciples of Jesus and pursue stewardship as a way of life, the principles of Catholic Social Teaching become very easy to incorporate into our lives.

Catholic Social Teaching has been around since those first followers of Jesus tried to balance their new faith with the realities of living in a world of Roman oppression. Jesus reminded His disciples then, just as He reminds us now, that caring for and administering to the poor should be at the core of all we do. Recall when the Lord said in Matthew, “For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; I was naked and you gave me clothing; I was ill and you cared for me; I was in prison and you visited me.”

This is our foundation as we seek to embody mercy and justice to our fellow man, and should be one of our major goals as a faith community. Many of our parish ministries provide for us an opportunity to do just as Jesus asked; to serve those most in need. As we move into the fall season, with Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas soon to follow, now is a good time for us to recommit ourselves to addressing the needs we see around us — both as a parish society and as individuals.

I am proud of our collective efforts in assisting and serving the poor, but I also know that we can do more. Many of us personally need to get involved in these efforts. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has a great love and regard for the poor and, like Jesus, he reminds us often of what we need to do. In a recent homily, Pope Francis said, “The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.” Together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. Larry M. Bakke  
Pastor



# “A Whole New Exp *St. Clare’s Yo*

Garret Martin remembers going through the motions. He remembers attending what he considered “dry and irrelevant” CCD classes when he was in high school. Today, he has a challenge for St. Clare’s youth – come and give Youth Ministry a try, because it won’t be what you’re expecting!

“Faith has shaped who I am,” says Garret, our Coordinator of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. “Our church is far from dry and irrelevant and I want our youth to know that. I want to invite our youth into a community that is fun, with people who care about who they are and where they are going on a deeper and real level.”

This summer, our youth had several opportunities to get active together and enjoy friendships with other young people who hold the same values.

“In the summer, we move away from the regularly scheduled programming and provide opportunities to be active, hang out and get to know each other better,” Garret says.

Students from rising ninth-graders through recently graduated seniors spent time mini-golfing, bowling, play-

ing volleyball, going to the drive-in movie theater, and tubing down the Sugar River.

“We had lots of outdoor activities to keep our community going,” Garret says. “I genuinely care about these students and like to stay connected with them during the summer.”

Two other programs brought our youth together with other young people across the diocese – Totus Tuus, a catechetical-based summer program, and Love Begins Here, a local missions program.

“The idea behind Love Begins Here is that God calls us to love our neighbor and serve one another,” Garret says. “We often think we need to travel to do this, but there is so much to do right here!”

Students from middle school to high school gathered for these week-long summer camps and went out into local Madison area communities to work on projects like washing windows, sorting clothes at a thrift shop or visiting the homebound.

“The summer programs are an awesome way to see that others their age are passionate about their faith,” Garret says.



# Experience of Church”

## Youth Ministry

“Love Begins Here is a ton of fun, and the Gospel message is ingrained in their hearts in a unique way when they experience the love of Christ through serving our communities.”

This school year, the high school youth ministry will continue to integrate fun activities, but will also alternate other types of gatherings.

“Our plan is to have a rotation so that every month, we’ll have a fun activity, a day of service, a passionate guest speaker and a ‘hot topic’ discussion,” Garret says.

On service days, students will see their faith in action through mini-Love Begins Here experiences of serving our local community. Guest speakers will integrate their personal witness with Catholic teaching in a way that is relevant for the students. Conversations on current events will bring Catholic teachings into a daily context.

“We have a tendency to teach doctrine in simple black and white terms disconnected from daily life,” Garret says. “The discussions might focus on a question, and then we would discuss where they stand on it and how doctrine plays into their daily lives.”

Part of Garret’s hope for Youth Ministry at St. Clare is that students will see that Confirmation is just the beginning – there are significant and transformative ways our young people can get involved together, live the Gospel message and experience the love of Christ.

“We’re all searching for belonging and meaning, and I’ve never found it anywhere but in God and my faith,” Garret says. “Take a step and come check it out.”

*St. Clare’s Youth Ministry gathers each Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. The program kick-off for this school year will be a scavenger hunt on Sept. 23. For more information, please reach out to Garret Martin at 608-325-9506 or [gmartin@stclaregreencounty.org](mailto:gmartin@stclaregreencounty.org).*



# “Love Is Our Mission: The Family Fully Alive”

## *The United States Welcomes Pope Francis*

Pope Francis has traveled to Israel, Brazil and Turkey, among other countries throughout the past 30 months of his papacy. This fall, our Holy Father will travel to the United States for the 2015 World Meeting of Families in an address to the Colloquium on the Complementarity of Man and Woman at the Vatican on Nov. 17, 2014.

This papal visit will be a historic event for the United States. Many expect Pope Francis to speak about immigration and our responsibility as stewards of creation along with other current topics of interest.

On the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 22, the pontiff will travel from Cuba to the United States. The following day, the leader of our Church and the leader of our country will convene at the White House. President Obama has called Pope Francis “transformative,” publicly thanking the pontiff for his moral example and his instrumental role in furthering relations between the United States and Cuba.

After midday prayer on Sept. 23 with bishops at St. Matthew’s Cathedral, Pope Francis will canonize Blessed Junipero Serra, the Spanish Franciscan instrumental in establishing the California missions, at a Mass in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

In keeping with his reputation for the unprecedented, Pope Francis will then speak to a joint session of the United States Con-



gress on the morning of Sept. 24, thus becoming the first pope to address Congress.

Afterwards, Pope Francis will visit St. Patrick in the City and Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington before departing for New York City and arriving to participate in Vespers at St. Patrick’s Cathedral.

On Sept. 25, Pope Francis will become the fourth leader of the Catholic Church to visit the United Nations and speak to the United Nations General Assembly.

From the United Nations, Pope Francis will travel to the National September 11 Memorial & Museum at the World Trade Center site. There, he will lead an interfaith service for peace.

Despite his limited days on American soil, Pope Francis designated time to visit Our Lady Queen of Angels School in East Harlem. The pope will be received by a large-

ly immigrant student population at this Partnership School, which is one of a six-school organization devoted to urban Catholic education in the communities of South Bronx and Harlem.

The celebration of Mass at Madison Square Garden concludes this last full day in New York City.

After arriving in Philadelphia on Sept. 26, Pope Francis will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul, and then speak at Independence Hall on immigration and religious freedom.

In the evening, the pope will at last arrive at the World Meeting of Families 2015, the theme of which, chosen by Pope Francis, is “Love Is Our Mission: the Family Fully Alive.” That evening, he will be the guest of honor at the Festival of Families.

On Sept. 27, the pope will convene with bishops at St. Martin’s Chapel at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary before visiting the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, where he will meet with select prisoners and their families.

In the afternoon, Pope Francis returns to the World Meeting of Families to celebrate the concluding Mass at Benjamin Franklin Parkway before departing in the evening for Rome.

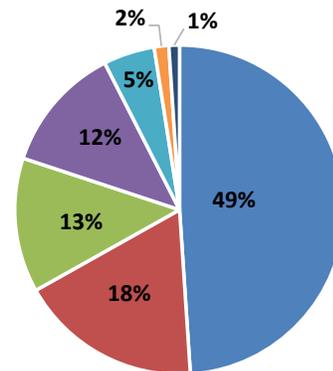
As we prepare for the Holy Year of Mercy, Pope Francis’ actions exemplify for us the Corporal Works of Mercy. Let us remember our call as Christians to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

# Our Parish Financial Picture At A Glance

How much money came into St. Clare of Assisi in 2014-2015 Fiscal Year? **\$1,413,140**

## Sources of Operational Funds

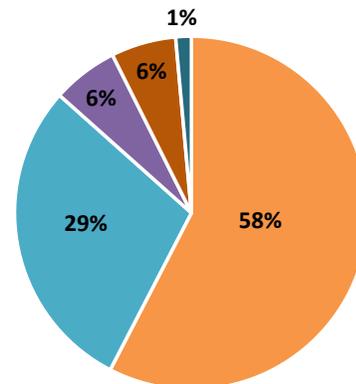
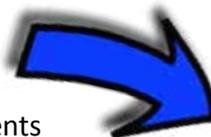
49%	\$691,761	Offertory Envelopes
18%	\$253,122	Other School Income (Home & School, SCRIP, Hot Lunch, Donations, etc.)
13%	\$186,671	Tuition
12%	\$175,564	Other Parish Income
5%	\$71,090	Capital Improvement Income
2%	\$20,250	Cemetery Income
1%	\$14,682	Faith Formation



How much did we spend? **\$1,424,587**

## Where did we spend it?

58%	\$820,534	School
29%	\$413,105	General Parish
6%	\$85,921	Capital Improvements
6%	\$84,669	Faith Formation
1%	\$20,358	Cemetery



**Loss for last fiscal year is -\$11,447**

## Nilles Hall Project

- \$72,573 Expenses for remodeling Nilles Hall
- \$36,255 Grant from Apostolate to the Handicapped
- \$6,000 Donations for Nilles Hall

**\$30,318 Donations still needed to pay for Nilles Hall project (Envelopes in back of church)**

## Where do you fit in?

Number of registered households: 923

Gave \$0	290	Gave \$2,001 - \$3,000	40
Gave \$1 - \$1,000	423	Gave \$3,001 - \$4,000	11
Gave \$1,001 - \$2,000	134	Gave over \$4,000	25

**What can you do to help?**

- \*Increase offertory contributions
- \*Attend Chicken Dinner & Fish Dinners
- \*Purchase Raffle Tickets
- \*Give Parish donations by ACH
- \*Attend Mardi Gras
- \*Participate in Tuition Assistance Program
- \*Buy SCRIP



# ST. CLARE of ASSISI PARISH

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## Chicken Dinner and Raffle Event *continued from front cover*

ments you will really remember and take with you. You don't always get to talk to everyone at Mass, so it's nice to see people come out, and to talk to them. It's just a great community event – it's good food, good company and good fun.”

These dinners are also a great opportunity for new parishioners to make friends within the parish.

“For example, I think it's a really good thing for that young adult age group – when you move to a town at that age, it might be hard to find a group of people to hang out with,” Jenni points out. “I think this is a really great way to get introduced to parishioners and find friends at your same age level.”

Any parishioner is welcome to volunteer and help out – it's a wonderful way to give back to the community, and have fun at the same time.

“I have worked so many fish fries during the last several years, and I just love to be behind the serving table and be able to talk to everyone,” Jenni says. “We get so much from our community, so this is one way to give back. People from both the parish and the local community are invited to eat, and you get to know all different kinds of people. You're working, but you're having a great time, and it's just a great feeling.”

*Join us for the St. Clare of Assisi Chicken Dinner on Sept. 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the St. Victor School gym. Meals will cost \$10 each, and raffle tickets are \$10 apiece. Parishioners are welcome to stay, eat, and socialize. Carry out meals are also available. For more information, or if you'd like to volunteer, please contact the parish office at 608-325-9506.*