

DEAR PARISHIONERS**A NOTE OF THANKS!**

I would like to offer a brief but deeply felt "Thank You!"

Some of you may know that earlier this summer in June, Mrs. Janet Kempf, who has been involved, first as a volunteer and then as the coordinator, with the parish religious education program (PREP) since 2006, asked to focus her attention on our growing Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program along with developing more opportunities in the parish for adult faith formation. I am very grateful to Janet for her nine year commitment to the parish faith formation program for children and youth. Through her witness of leadership, stewardship and dedication to PREP and faith formation, Janet has had a very positive impact on the parish and made a tremendous difference in lives of our parish families, especially the children as well as our PREP catechists. I am also very appreciative that Janet will continue to be an essential part of faith formation for adults in the parish. It has been a pleasure to work with Janet and I look forward to her continued presence on the pastoral team and her faith filled commitment to the parish.

A NOTE OF WELCOME!

On behalf of the parish, welcome Mrs. Melissa Maleski to the parish staff and pastoral team as the Director (DRE) for the parish religious education program (PREP) for children and youth. After several weeks of conducting interviews and reviewing references this summer the PREP candidate search team selected Melissa from a pool of five applicants.

Along with professional degrees in the "Anthropology and Theological Studies" from Bloomsburg University and Notre Dame Graduate School of Christendom College, Melissa brings diverse skills to the role of PREP coordinator as a longtime volunteer catechist as well as professional and volunteer experience in both formation and business administration.

When asked to provide a brief bio of herself for the parish, she shared the following.

I am thrilled to be joining the Saint John the Baptist parish family as your new Director of Religious Education. I look forward to getting to know all of you and working with you to form our youth in the Catholic faith and parish community.

I have been an educator and administrator for twelve years, the last six as a volunteer catechist. In addition to volunteering, I've had the privilege over the last year to develop course content for an independent online Catholic publisher of catechesis materials. I received my Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Christendom College's graduate school in 2014, with a concentration in Systematic Theology.

My husband and I have been married for 10 years, and have four children. I am an avid reader; running and hiking are my other great escapes. I am blessed with the patronage of the Holy Family, and draw inspiration from St. Augustine, St. Francis de Sales, and St. Catharine of Siena.

Again, many "THANKS" to Janet and "WELCOME" to Melissa! Please keep them, their ministries and our developing faith formation programs in your prayers.

Save the Date: Papal Mass Community Viewing and Pot Luck Supper: On Sunday, September 27, 2015, 4:00 PM on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Pope Francis will be celebrating a Mass for the World Meeting of Families (WMOF). As we know well from the media, a huge crowd of people are expected to participate in the event. For a variety of reasons not everyone will be able to attend the actual Mass. In light of that, we are planning to host a community viewing of the papal Mass followed by a pot luck supper in our parish social hall.

Earlier in the summer, Irene Madrak, the Executive Director of the North Light Community Center (NL), contacted me and invited me to a meeting with ARAMARK. ARAMARK, one of NL's sponsors and a major sponsor of the WMOF, proposed the idea of creating a neighborhood event surrounding the Papal Mass. However, after the initial meeting/phone conference the logistics of the event proved to be monumental so they decided to abandon the effort. Since the communities of St. John the Baptist and North Light had begun the process of planning, both decided to continue planning the joint event.

On July 28, 2015, parishioners of SJB along with staff/volunteers from the North Light Community Center met to discuss holding a joint event at SJB. The organizing committee will meet several more times to complete the plans. If you want to join in the preparations, call the rectory.

SAVE THE DATE: On Sunday, September 27, 2015, from 3:00PM to 6:00PM, join the community at Saint John the Baptist Church to watch Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway followed by a Pot Luck Supper in the parish Social Hall. More details to follow!



Save the Date: Parish 185th Jubilee Celebration, April 24, 2016: This past week I confirmed with the Office of the Archbishop that he will be present on April 24, 2016 as the celebrant and homilist at the 11:00 AM Mass in honor of the parish's 185th anniversary. Following the Mass, weather permitting we will continue the celebration in the streets with a Philadelphia Style Block Party. Weather not permitting, we will be indoors. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend.