



St. Joseph R.C. Church

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My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

These past four months have certainly been challenging times for us individually and as a community. Like many, we are adapting by listening to God speaking to us through our hearts, giving us guidance as we continue to grow in spirit and wisdom.

I am writing to you again as we continue to move forward in our parish's re-birth, a journey that has been intended to be purposeful and measured as we keep everyone's safety in mind.

As with many things, our **St. Joseph Parish Summer Party** will need to be different since we cannot be together this year. I realize that the fun celebration of summer together will be missed, but we have come up with a way we can all celebrate at the same time, but separately, as we share our summer fun with one another. By doing so we will still be able to celebrate summer and "virtually" hold one of our larger annual fund-raising events, which is so critically needed at this time. During the past four months, I have been thankful that we've been able to realize almost 70% of our weekly donation income. However, the other 30%, along with a substantially lower Easter collection, has led to a significant loss of revenue. Therefore, we are planning a 'virtual' shared parish BBQ on Facebook on Saturday evening September 12th at 6:30pm, including our traditional summer raffle.

- We are inviting each parish family to have a BBQ in your own backyard and then share your pictures with our fellow parishioners that evening. We will have a small BBQ here at the rectory with the priests and a few staff members and will share our pictures as well. \$50 gift cards will be awarded to the top 3 most 'interesting' pictures submitted.
- At 9pm we will go live on our Facebook page and pull the winners of our **2020 Grand Summer Raffle** (the video will also be posted to our parish website).
- We have enclosed 3 Grand Summer Raffle tickets and are asking for your support. Each ticket is \$50, or 3 for \$125. There will be 3 winners – who will share in 50% of the gross proceeds raised (30% 1st prize; 15% 2nd prize and 5% 3rd prize).
- As these are difficult times and we appreciate whatever your means will allow, please consider asking friends and family to participate. You could also purchase a ticket in the name of your favorite charity that may be financially squeezed because of the pandemic.
- Please mail back the stubs along with your check (or credit card information) and hold on to the portion marked 'retain for your records.' You can also drop it them in the basket at Sunday Mass, or at the Rectory (we have a mail slot in the front door).
- Additional tickets are also available at the Rectory office during our new normal business hours (and the Rectory office will be open on Thursday September 10 from 9am – 5pm for any last-minute ticket purchases.)

Whether you participate in the raffle or not, I ask that you keep your fellow parishioners in your prayers. On behalf of everyone on our parish staff, I thank you again for all you do for St. Joseph and building the City of God here in Ronkonkoma. I hope you will be able to participate in this "**Shared Summer Party**" evening on September 12th!

In the Peace of Christ,

Fr. Mike

By our loving service and works of mercy, we invite every person to know Jesus Christ, present in the Word and the breaking of the Bread, so that all may accept his gift of salvation.