


SHRINE OF ST. JOSEPH

1844



1802

178 YEARS

The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.

NEWSLETTER

1220 N. 11th Street • St. Louis, Missouri 63106-4614 • Rectory Phone (314) 231-9407
 e-mail: info@shrineofstjoseph.org

SUMMER-FALL ISSUE 2022

Highlights of Shrine's Liturgical Spring Time Events



Fr. Wunderlich,
Rector & Homilist

The annual festive celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19th honoring our patron, St. Joseph was superb. The Shrine distributed over 600 loaves of blessed bread, had a dozen members of the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard, and was inspired with the re-sounding and triumphant music of choir, organ, and brass ensemble led by David Byrne, organist and choir director. It also marked the grand return of our rector, Fr. Wunderlich, who had been on leave-of-absence for hip replacement and rehab. The sheer number of worshippers in attendance from far and wide may attest to their strong devotion to St. Joseph as well as their desire to experience this special religious celebration in honor of St. Joseph at this magnificent Shrine.

The period of Lent leading up to Easter was filled with the Stations of the Cross every Friday as well as the Sacred Paschal Triduum. The Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil on Saturday) was celebrated by Father Matt Stewart, SJ, the director of Campus Ministry at SLU High School along with five seminarians (scholastics) on April 14th, 15th, and 16th. The Triduum celebrates the 3 holiest days of the Church calendar, recalling the Institution of the Eucharist, and Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. Various parts of the Triduum liturgies include the washing of the feet and transfer of the Eucharist on Holy Thursday; the reading of the Passion according to St. John and the veneration and adoration of the Holy Cross on Good Friday; and

the lighting of the Paschal candle, Readings from the Old and New Testaments and the return of the Gloria and Alleluia at the Easter Vigil Mass on Holy Saturday. Interspersed throughout each of these liturgies was superb music from our choir.

On May 8th the Shrine celebrated a perennial favorite—the annual Mother's Day Mass and the crowning of Mary. In the processional, the Shrine's tradition was continued by having a long line of mothers, grandmothers, daughters, and granddaughters bring carnations to the altar and place them near the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary as she is crowned. Many memorable and nostalgic hymns were sung by the choir; especially noteworthy was a special arrangement of Franz Schubert's Ave Maria which was sublimely beautiful. "Reverent and inspirational" are the words come to mind in describing the Shrine's liturgical events throughout Lent, Easter, and the spring season.

With weddings filling the spring calendar on Saturdays and tours after Mass and during the week, we are also able to share the beauty and history of the Shrine with many first-timers. The extraordinary beauty of the Shrine, its art and architecture, significant religious history, sacred music, and inspiring liturgy—all combine to create a truly religious experience which uplift people's hearts to the Lord.



Jim Allen, Frank Fessler, Joe Finazzo



Front (L-R): Denise Finazzo, Donna Finazzo
 Middle: Fr. Sserwadda, SJ
 Back: Fr. Dale Wunderlich

Jesuits Celebrate Conclusion of Year of St Ignatius at the Shrine

On July 31, the Shrine hosted St. Louis' finale of the year-long celebration of the 500th anniversary of the conversion of their founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola, as well as the 400th anniversary of his canonization and that of St. Francis Xavier, SJ. Members of the Jesuit local community came together for a remarkably impressive and profoundly holy Mass at the Shrine. The "Ignatian family" in St. Louis includes staff, faculty, students, alumni, and friends of St. Louis University, St. Louis University H.S., De Smet Jesuit H.S., Loyola Academy, the White House Retreat, and St. Matthew's Catholic Church.

The world-wide 'Year of St. Ignatius' had been celebrated for the last 12 months. It commemorates the 500th anniversary of Ignatius' conversion from a military life to a complete dedication of his life to God following his wounding by a cannonball while defending Pamplona, Spain. While recovering, Ignatius was called to a holy life which led him to establish of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits).

Father David Suwalsky, SJ, the main celebrant, and vice president for Mission and Identity at St. Louis University, commented that "to have the St. Louis Closing Mass of the Ignatian Year at the Shrine was the perfect setting with both the statues of St. Ignatius and St. Francis Xavier on this magnificent altar in a church begun by the Jesuits in 1843." He added, "Why wouldn't you have it here?"

In his homily, Father Suwalsky said that when Ignatius wrote about the vow of poverty, he warned about the consequences of selfishness and the tendency to have no guilt while others suffer. "So," he said, "what must we do? Pray! And acknowledge what we have—be humble and be generous."

Eleven fellow Jesuits and Father Wunderlich (Rector of the Shrine), joined with Father Suwalsky to con-celebrate the Mass. Volunteers of the Shrine were on hand to assist and the Shrine Choir, under the direction of David Byrne, together with brass quintet and timpani, assisted in the sung liturgy, providing specially selected beautiful, serene, holy, and triumphant music throughout the Mass. It was truly a sacred and grand finale to the 'Year of St. Ignatius.'



Fr. David Suwalsky, SJ, Fr. Wunderlich and Jesuit Priest
 Con-celebrants at Mass on Feast of St. Ignatius

Successful Spring Fund Raiser Ends with Appreciation Day Event

In the 1970's, the Shrine was in such dreadful condition, that most people today wouldn't believe it. The story of its stunning transformation against all odds is a reflection of the wide-spread financial and volunteer support our organization has received over the many years of restoration work. Part of the Shrine's success story is miraculous, when you realize that almost all of our donations have been in amounts of less than \$100 each. This is why the saving and restoration of this magnificent Catholic edifice was considered a "grass-roots" effort on the part of a very large number of loyal donors who have contributed for many years.

The primary sources of income to fund the Shrine's operating expenses come from weekly collections, weddings, air and steam club support, membership contributions, candle/booklet donations, tours, Shrine shoppe revenues, direct donations, and our two semi-annual fund raiser raffles. This year's semi-annual fund raiser raffles contributed substantially to the Shrine's upkeep and maintenance. The most recent spring fund raiser raffle consisted of participants from 30 states across the country.

Appreciation Sunday

Sometimes saying "thank you" to all of our volunteers and donors is not enough. So, on Pentecost Sunday, June 5th, after Mass, the Friends organization invited everyone to share in food, fellowship, and fun. Jim Blum, Board President and Shrine pit master, assisted by Mark Wilhelm barbecued gourmet brats and hot dogs, Julie Fessler prepared baked beans from her fantastic family recipe, Maribeth McMahon provided Mexican Street corn, delicious coleslaw was donated by Pappy's Restaurant, and an array of desserts and beverages were available for attendees. At this outdoor event, Father Wunderlich, Rector of the Shrine, pulled the winners from the spring raffle returns. Congratulations to the lucky winners who were:

- 1st place: Dianne Raney, Chesterfield, MO;
- 2nd place: Silas Dickherber, St. Charles, MO;
- 3rd place: Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kellermann, Union, MO;
- 4th place: Ms. Mary Anyan, Belleville, IL.

Without all of you—our donors from far and wide -- who participated, as well as our volunteers, this marvelous Catholic structure would have been just a memory. We are truly grateful for every donor who sends in his raffle tickets with his donation and we relish the occasional times when we receive a handwritten note giving us a verbal pat on the back. We humbly say: May God bless all of you!



Appreciation Sunday 2022

Board of Directors Annual Meeting

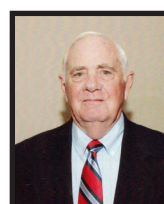
The annual public meeting of the Board was held on March 27, 2022. A review of the year's events, activities, and finances was presented. In addition, four incumbents on the Board were up again for re-election: The following members were re-elected to another 3-year term in accordance with the Friends' by-laws:



Mike Boyne



Joan Wilhelm



Howard Matthews



Conrad Philipp

A new additional way to make your donation to the Shrine of Saint Joseph! Simply Scan the QR Code below to access the Shrine's Secure Donation Page and you can easily make your donation using your Mastercard, VISA, or Discover Card.



The Shrine Shoppe is Open

The Shrine Shoppe is open for business! Located through the doors just below the Shrine's side entrance, the Shoppe is open before and after Mass on Sundays as well as the Mass on the First Friday of each month. Please go have a cup of complimentary coffee as you check out all the gently used items for sale at greatly reduced prices as well as the religious items which might make a perfect special gift. All purchases benefit the Shrine.

Barb Finnegan Remembers her Family's Roots



Barb Finnegan with daughter Monica

Barb Meiners Finnegan and her family have a long connection to the Shrine. Barb and her husband were married at the Shrine 33 years ago in 1989 when the interior restoration was in progress; also, Monica, one of their daughters was just married at the Shrine this spring. Barb's parents had 9 girls and 3 boys and they were always a Church involved family. Her family's ancestors' connections to St. Joseph's goes back to its earliest days.

One in particular was Herman Meiners, her great great grandfather, born in 1825 in Lingen, Germany. At that time, there were many Catholics leaving their homeland because they were not well treated. Thus, there was a tremendous migration to the United States in search of religious freedom. Herman was known to be vocal and denounced the German government's policies toward Catholics and his friends urged him, for his own safety, to leave when he was 18 years old. He arrived in America and made his way to St. Louis by traveling down the Ohio River in 1843. In St. Louis, Meiners eventually bought a property directly across the street from St. Joseph's on 11th Street and joined St. Joseph's Parish. After a few years, he moved a few blocks away and bought property at 1322 North 10th Street from Bishop Kenrick in which he erected front and rear buildings that he rented out.

Herman began a drayage business located almost directly under what is now Eads Bridge on the Mississippi River, building his business around a team of horses, carts, and carriages which cost about \$1,800, and consisted of a 2-horse team, single axle, dump bed. He would haul and distribute from steamboats at the busy port all kinds of goods to the growing St. Louis business community. He later moved his business to 13th and Cass and erected a red brick building which is still standing. Eventually, his business blossomed to also include weddings and funerals --he would do weddings with three white-colored horses and a fancy white carriage. During the cholera epidemic of 1866 he got into the funeral business, and he had three dark-colored horses and a black carriage for funerals; he would haul the deceased from churches to Calvary and other cemeteries. Soon the business was named "Meiners Livery and Undertaking." Meiners married at age 33 and had 8 sons, three of whom joined their father in running the business. They promoted their business as "the finest horses and carriages in St. Louis."

Herman became very involved with the maintenance of St. Joseph's. Herman's wife, Sophia, died in 1894 and Herman in 1900 at the age of 75. The names of Herman and Sophia Meiners appear in two places in the back of the Shrine hanging on the east and west side walls on framed historic scrolls representing the deaths of members of the women and men's sodalities. We thank Barb for that interesting aspect of her ancestral history connected to the early days of St. Joseph's.



LOOKING BACK 40 YEARS AGO: THE DEDICATION OF FATHER FILIPIAK PARK

In 1981, the city set aside the 2.8-acre green space east of the Shrine as an eventual park, and, in 1985, this space was officially dedicated and named in honor of Father Filipiak. The brick memorial in the center of the park along the walkway simply reads:

Father Edward S. Filipiak Park
Slain in a church robbery
Without this humble priest, there would be no
Shrine of St. Joseph

Seven years earlier, the egregious murder of Father Filipiak took place in his second-floor bed room of the then, broken-down rectory. Father Filipiak had refused to leave the Shrine because he knew it would accelerate the demise of the church. The plan was to sell the property to a trucking company—it would be torn down, and replaced with a truck depot. Father Filipiak was frequently heard saying: *"I would die for this church,"* and that's exactly what happened. Many old-timers felt that without his inspiring devotion, leadership, and optimism — as the inscription on the park brick memorial reads: Without this humble priest, there would be no Shrine of St. Joseph.

Father Filipiak brought five business men and an architect together and they formed our not-for-profit organization in March of 1979. Exactly six months later on September 29, 1979, Father was murdered. Following the murder, in 1980, Archbishop May, after reviewing what to do with the Shrine, made the momentous decision to grant to our organization financial stewardship of the Shrine in the form of a lease agreement, and, by 1985, restoration was well under way. Over the course of 15 long years many donors, volunteers, labor union members, and craftsmen helped the newly-founded Friends organization to succeed at giving the church what is now considered a world-class restoration which was a monumental undertaking.

During the years of 1991 to 2000, the Friends held a large festival in Filipiak Park every June to raise funds for the on-going restoration. Longtime volunteer, Carmella Baker, through her untiring leadership, made this into a truly major event with hundreds of folks coming from all over to celebrate and contribute to the eventual completion of the Shrine's magnificent restoration.

Labor Union Yearly Contributions

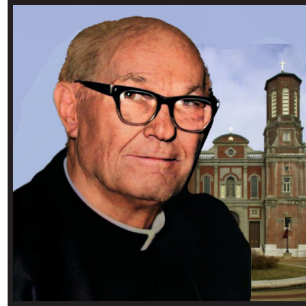
The day before the annual Labor Union Mass every year, some 25 labor volunteers give up their time and show up on Saturday—this year they gave the park and surrounding areas around the Shrine a sprucing up. A new tree was planted, weeds removed, flowers were planted, existing trees were trimmed, and the park and piazza area were cleaned.

The next day on the first Sunday in May, the annual Robert Kortkamp Memorial Union Labor Mass takes place preceded by a ceremony in Father Filipiak Park honoring and remembering those labor members who have been injured or died on the job. A large American flag is hung between two fire trucks as members arrive and fill the Shrine for their annual Mass. Back in the early 1980's it was Kortkamp, a Labor leader, who encouraged members of labor to assist our fledgling organization in the restoration of the Shrine—they wanted to see our organization succeed and were willing to help. Prior to the interior restoration, led by our architect, Ted Wofford, and his group of hand-picked talented artisans, volunteers from Union Labor did a number of infrastructure projects such as brick tuckpointing, concrete work, new electrical wiring, and plumbing. Our organization shall be forever grateful to their voluntary efforts done in the early days on Saturdays. Over the years, Labor Union members have continually been supportive of the Shrine and have been one of our major contributors in giving their time, support, and treasure toward making Father Filipiak's dream of saving the Shrine a true reality.

Oktoberfest

Please join us on Sunday, October 2, 2022
following the 11:00am Mass
in the courtyard behind church
food-fun-fellowship

Photos courtesy of Arteaga Photography



Fr. Edward Filipiak

(R) Memorial Marker at Filipiak Park. Dedicated 6/23/1985.



(L) Filipiak Park Dedication Ceremony June 23, 1985

(R) Current view of the Shrine of St. Joseph from Filipiak Park



NEW IMPROVED SOUND SYSTEM

As Jim Blum, Board president, wrote in his spring letter to all of you, *"we have concluded the installation of a new sound system bringing clearer sound to all areas of the church...hundreds of feet of cable have been installed in the crawl space under the church and up to and through the attic by two Board members at a significant cost savings."*

Joe Finazzo, vice president, led this entire project with help from Kevin Finazzo, our treasurer, and Jim Blum. Over 2550 feet of cable was run to 18 speaker cabinets situated not only on each of the main supporting columns but also in the upper and lower balcony transmitting sound evenly throughout the space. There are also 8 new high-quality microphones which required another 800 feet of cable installation. All of the cable installation was achieved with a high regard for out of view concealment. To do that, however, required hours of crawling and kneeling in tight spaces under the church by our volunteers—resulting in considerable cost savings to the Shrine. The sound technicians have completed the fine tuning, and we now have a state-of-the-art system that brings sound directly to all areas of the church. This system is a great improvement over the old system which left many areas of the church where it was difficult for people to hear.

SHRINE'S MEMORABLE WEDDINGS

By the end of 2022, there will have been 50 memorable and beautiful weddings celebrated at the Shrine. In fact, the Fall of 2022 is "jam-packed" with two weddings nearly every Saturday. Couples are currently reserving dates for Weddings in 2023. Kathie Schmid, one of the Shrine's wedding coordinators, reminds couples to "please get your reservation in early and we, currently, can probably find a date for your wedding almost any time of the year that you would like." Questions about weddings or making a personal visit to see the Shrine can be arranged by calling our Wedding Office at 314-231-0869 on Tuesdays.



The Shrine of Saint Joseph's Friends, Inc.
 1220 North 11th Street
 St. Louis, MO 63106-4614



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I no longer wish to receive the Newsletter.

Please clip the address panel and mail it to us noting your correction or request.

Mass Times
 Sundays: 11:00am
 First Friday of each Month: 12:00pm (Noon)
 Holy Days of Obligation: See Website www.shrineofstjoseph.org for details
 Veneration of St. Peter Claver Relic or St. Padre Pio Relic following Mass
 Fr. Dale Wunderlich, Rector and Recipient of the Aquinas Institute "Great Preacher" Award.

Staying in touch with the Shrine:
 • Website: www.shrineofstjoseph.org • Facebook: [Facebook.com/shrineofstjoseph](https://www.facebook.com/shrineofstjoseph) • YouTube: StJoseph Shrine •

Supporting the Shrine with Your Membership

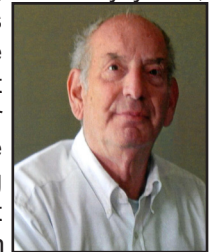


Sherry Chibnall

The restoration and on-going maintenance of the Shrine is accomplished strictly through private contributions. Annual membership dues are only \$10 per individual. If you are already a member, we **GRATEFULLY THANK YOU** and ask for your continued support. If you are not currently a member, please consider joining. **Your financial support is necessary** to help in the preservation of this irreplaceable historic and religious landmark for future generations. If you have any questions, please contact Sherry Chibnall, your Membership Committee Chairperson, at (314) 231-9407.

Air & Steam Club

Members of the Air & Steam Club have, for many years, helped to cover utility costs. Your donations have contributed greatly toward the Shrine's heating and AC bills. If you aren't currently a Member, please consider joining now. Your help is needed! There are monthly drawings for prizes totaling \$200. Tickets are \$12 each, and 1 ticket gives you 1 chance to win each month and there's no limit on the number of tickets you can purchase. Simply complete the form below and mail it together with your check payable to:



John Colao

"Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc."

1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614.

For more information, please contact **John Colao**, Chairperson at (314) 231-9407

Please Remember the Shrine in your Will or Trust.

Application for Membership & **Renewal Form**
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.
Dues are \$10 per person, per year

Mr. _____
 Mrs. _____
 Ms. _____
 Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone _____

Check \$ _____ Check Number _____
 Date _____ Cash \$ _____

Make Checks payable to:
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.
 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

Air and Steam Club
 Shrine of St. Joseph's Friends, Inc.
 1220 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63106-4614

1st Prize	\$100
2nd Prize	\$ 50
3rd Prize	\$ 50

Name _____
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____
 Phone _____

Please enter my name. I do not wish to make a donation at this time.

Special Notice:

Please be aware that the Shrine has not and does not give or sell names and addresses on our mailing list to any other groups or organizations.