



**ST. JOSEPH PARISH**  
Full of Life and Love in Maplewood

# PILGRIMAGE

Stories of Faith Building in the Heart of Maplewood since 1914

Lent 2024

## Introducing Pilgrimage

My Dear Sojourners,

Welcome to Pilgrimage, a collection of stories and interesting facts about our parish community of St. Joseph here in the heart of Maplewood.



We began in 1914 and have been through a lot. Many of our beginning members are now Home with God. Many new members are with us now and we are grateful for this growth.

The journey is full of excitement. But most of all, we share a common bond of love for God and one another. We serve those in need and we care deeply for the world and its inhabitants.

The hallmark of our community is a desire for all to be welcomed and accepted. We do that well by the grace of God. May we strive to be more like Jesus every step of the way.

With Prayerful Love,

Fr. Jim Worth  
Your Pastor

## Music Ministry Spreads Joy & Praise

By David McGrath

The Music Ministry at St. Joseph's is among the most visible and vital of the organizations that support the mission of the parish.

Under the leadership of Music Director Greg Scimé, the ministry includes cantors, choirs and instrumentalists for all Sunday masses.

The ministry also is supported by a collection of talented and accomplished guest musicians who occasionally accompany the choir during Sunday masses and who are a featured element of the many special concerts that the ministry performs during the year.

The adult choir, which is comprised of about 25 parishioners with beautiful, diverse voices that blend



in unique harmonies, works throughout the year preparing music for our 11:30 a.m. Sunday masses and for our most holy celebrations — Easter and Christmas.

The choir also performs at a variety of special concerts throughout the year, including the most recent Black History Month celebration on Feb. 18.

The Children's Choir, which is made up of youngsters aged 7 to 13, sings at the Sunday 9 a.m. mass.

## Do You See What I See?

By Lynette Jackson

As a member of St Joseph's choir, I appreciate my perspective looking out at the congregation.

I see a family near the front of the church that takes up the entire pew: mom, dad, their children from youngest to eldest, and grandma too!

Just in front of them is a smaller

family, mom and dad with a small son and daughter. I'm sure there are other various families in the congregation, even those who come alone.

I see that we are all part of a church family, and that music, joining together in song to praise God, is our common bond.

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# Decorating the Church for Holy Week, Easter

The Art & Environment Committee has a daunting task ahead as our parish prepares for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Under the leadership of Diana Murphy, the committee decorates the church for the various liturgical seasons of the year. They also maintain the atmosphere for a pleasant worship experience with plants, candles, and banners.

It is a large space to decorate and, through the years, Diana and her crew have come up with innovative, creative ideas that improve with each passing year. As we approach the solemn celebrations associated with Holy Week and Easter, the Art & Environment crew must work quickly and intensely to decorate the church appropriately through the transition from Lent into



the Triduum and finally through to the Easter celebrations, beginning with the Vigil on Holy Saturday evening.

After Morning Prayer and the Blessing of Food on Holy Saturday morning, the crew has only a small window of time to transform the church from the spare decor of Good Friday into the joyous liturgy of Easter on Saturday evening, adorning the church with lilies, hydrangeas, and other expressions of our collective celebration of Jesus' resurrection.

"Knowledge of good liturgy is essential," said Father Jim Worth. "Diana is on the Liturgy Committee and has been doing this for many years. We are grateful to her and her husband, Ron, who helps do the heavy lifting."

## Architectural Corner

The late parishioner Bernard A. Flanagan made an extensive study of the architectural features of our church. In this and future issues of *Pilgrimage*, we will feature the work that he left us.

Photos by Wilbur Henry



A statue of St. Joseph, holding lilies, a symbol of virtue, and a carpenter's square, a symbol of his craft, greets all from his position above the main entrance of our church. The facade was designed by George M. Voinovich, F.A.I. The cornerstone is dated 1970.



Among the stained glass windows in the church depicting moments in the life of St. Joseph is Mary Betrothed to Joseph, made by Hiemer & Co., Clifton, N.J., designed by George Stephen Walsh, and painted by Simon Berasaluce.

## Do You See What I See?

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Christmas and Easter are times that attract those that really want to celebrate the seasons. Music is an essential draw — and I see this.

I see that little boy begin to sway as the first notes of the Alleluia in the Gospel Acclamation play and I think "yes, let us praise Him!"

I see people sometimes with eyes closed listening to *Be Still my Soul*, and smiling with delight to the angelic sound of *Paradiso* in Faure's Requiem.

I see the power of music, the importance of the Music Ministry:

*One bread, one body, one Lord of all.  
One cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many, throughout the Earth.  
We are one body in this one Lord.*

— John Foley, S.J.

## Pilgrimage

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