



The mobile in the Gathering Space, designed by Fr. Lyle Schulte, features fish with hosts in their mouths.

Gathering Space Mobile

By Joann Kronebusch

Pastor Fr. Lyle Schulte had seen work by the artist Steve J. Haas in business buildings. He contacted Mr. Haas inquiring as to his willingness to produce a mobile for the Parish Center foyer (the Gathering Space). Mr. Haas was interested.

Fr. Lyle required that fish be the theme for the mobile and Mr. Haas created the size and shape to fit the space. The fish with the host in their mouths were chosen to relate our parish to our mother church, the Diocesan Cathedral – St. Joseph the Workman, where the fish are swimming in the upper stained-glass windows of the cathedral toward the altar and Christ.

The fish has long been a symbol of church – early Christians would draw a fish indicating they were followers of Christ. The Greek word for fish is ICHTHYS – an acrostic for the words “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.”

Tgif Tale

Office Space

*By Joann
Kronebusch*

The secretary’s office was in a small front room of the rectory when I first started working. With the introduction of a computer – which at that time needed to be 15 feet away from the copier – my office had to move. The living room became my office. Fr. Lyle made his office into a den and he moved into my former office.

When Fr. Al came he changed the den into his office and put the living room where the dining room used to be and the front office is now available for volunteers – life constantly changes.



Live music has always been a staple of St. Joe's picnics. From rock and roll to jazz to polka, we've had it all. Bands shown here performing at the picnic are (from top) First Last Call, River Cities Jazz and The Old Time Brass.

Parish Picnic

By Ron Kobishop

The parish picnic as we now know it, lapsed for a few years in the 1960s and was resurrected by Fr. Peter in 1970. We were co-chairs with the Mitchs for a couple years and chairpersons until 1998. Many of the games, stands and benches were built over the years and are still in use. With the help of a lot of good volunteers over the past 39 years, our parish picnic is the best!

In the early 1970s, I went down to Ehr Hall to check the number of wooden tables we had for the picnic, I thought it was 22. Lo and behold, there were none – What happened to them? There was nowhere else to store them. I called the rectory and Jo Frank said “I think Msgr. Finucan lent them to someone.” Except the good monsignor forgot who it was! There was a lot of head scratching. Someone remembered there was a flea market at the 51 drive-in. The manager was only there at night. “If those are your tables, come and get them out of our storage,” he said. Just what I needed, load 22 tables and unload them to Ehr Hall. It was a long 11-7 shift that night.

The 1970 parish picnic profit was \$1,086. Hamburgers were 15 cents and beers cost a dime. We’ve come a long way baby!

St. Joe’s - A Special Place

By Ellen Miskowski

Looking back there are a host of memories that make St. Joe’s the unique special place it has always been for me. As a teen I remember unofficially making St. Joe’s my home parish because I could dare to be me; singing in the folk choir behind the altar, feeling comfortable in a pair of jeans and a t-shirt.

My son has experienced all of his sacramental life at St. Joe’s: Baptism, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Confirmation and more recently his marriage. Now, his own children are beginning their sacramental life here also. Each experience has tugged at my heart bringing me closer to the St. Joe’s family and my own faith life.

Over the years special memories have included Halloween dances and Advent projects in Ehr Hall, serving on Parish Council, reading at liturgy, working on picnics, liturgical planning with Sacred Worship Committee and all the memorable music that makes St. Joe’s special.

The best memories of all will be the people I have met here at St. Joe’s; people that I have developed lasting friendships with and who truly make St. Joe’s a parish family.

Parish Picnic

By Agnes Kobishop

Our parish picnics were resumed on the parish grounds in 1970. Our first ones were only a one-day affair, but each year we got a little braver and we began to add a few things and then the big jump to a two-day affair. Added were fish boil, talent show, pony rides, carriage rides, games and competitive games for the youngsters (remember “Toss the Bull?”).

We had the white elephant auction with Elgie Suplicki. That guy could sell anything. For bingo at Jefferson School, we had to haul tables from Ehr Hall to the gym and back again. Boy, those were the days! Mark and Kathy Genovese made those delicious roast beef sandwiches for us on Saturday evenings.

I remember the time, just as we were beginning to serve sandwiches that a storm (a storm at St. Joe’s Picnic? Unheard of!) blew up, and we had people holding onto the tent poles so we wouldn’t lose the tent.

One year when we had charcoal chicken dinners, the vendor forgot to put us on his calendar. By luck, he was charcoaling chicken at Bukolt Park, so Walt Helbach hauled them to St. Joe’s for our dinner. And we are not going to forget the delicious chicken dinners Florence Sankey cooked up for us for so many years.

We had some good times, thanks to all our parishioners who helped make the parish picnics the success they were and are still the best!



Each year during picnic weekend, Ehr Hall is transformed into the home for the Silent Auction, featuring several hundred items.



Staffing the Ice Cream Shoppe, sponsored by Parish Family Life Committee, during picnic weekend are (from left) Michelle Daniels, Deanna Van Grinsven, Sally Dehlinger, Mary Stroik and Terri Knaapen.



Basket raffles have become popular at parish social events such as picnic, Fall Fest and Winterfest.



Customers of all ages give the Cherry Tree a try at the picnic.



It takes more than a little rain and cold weather to keep John Chang from working the grill and fryers at the parish picnic.

TgIF Tale

Parish Picnics

*By Joe &
Adrian Mitch*

The first parish picnic on the church grounds was a one-day affair. Set up was on Saturday and a couple of men, along with some teen-age boys, spent the night on the grounds to prevent anyone from messing with the set up.

Most of the games and activities were homemade with a lot of imagination and hard work. A big flat bed trailer was set up and the entertainment was provided by parishioners, their friends and kids from the school music program.



The picnic has a wide range of games for kids of all ages to play.

Nativity Scene

By Agnes Kobishop

Fr. Peter got us into decorating Christmas trees at church. The year we started, flocked trees were the “in” thing. So, of course, we had to try flocking trees. We didn’t mess up the church too bad while flocking the trees even though we had a couple bags of flock rupture.

It was a beautiful scene, too bad we don’t have color photos to show. Sr. Louise suggested putting the Nativity Scene in front of the altar, that was a beautiful setting also.

We also moved the Nativity Scene around, one year on the Blessed Virgin side and another year by St. Joseph. When the confessional was removed from the south side of church, we began setting the Nativity Scene in that area.



This Nativity Scene is set up on the south side inside church during the Christmas season.

Parish Library

By Pat Horn

With the addition of the Parish Family Center, St. Joseph’s Church was now able to have a Parish Library. We are not only fortunate to have a library, but one of this substantial size.

Because of the kindness of the people’s donations, St. Joseph Parish Library has over 1,500 books, movies and audio tapes. These are available to adults, youth and young children.

The movies have been added in the past year and have been very well received. Everyone can choose whether to listen, watch or read about our church, our faith, our saints and much more at the St. Joseph Parish Library.



The Advent Tree located in the Gathering Space provides an opportunity for parishioners to donate to numerous area charities.

Advent Tree

By Cindy Hawley

I got involved with the Advent Tree after telling a member of the Justice & Peace Committee that we cannot just protest but to put our money where our mouths are for the community. That fall I got a phone call and was told it was time to prove my point and help in organizing the Advent Tree.

What a wonderful experience it has been as through the years it has become our project together. I look forward each year to calling the charities, making the lists and ornaments and watching the donations grow. I am awed by the generosity of the people. The contacts for the groups show such appreciation, giving one great fulfillment. This year when distributing the gifts I told them, "I have the job" helping St. Joe's make a big difference in our town.

My testimonial is "nobody needs to be lonely or bored; you can walk up to any church and ask, how can I be of service?"

"Together in Faith"



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The St. Joseph Parish motto "Together in Faith" appears in many places, including on refrigerator magnets.

Leader of Prayer Ministry

By Janet Jacoby

I was in the second class for leaders of prayer in the La Crosse Diocese. The Eucharist is central to our Catholic faith. The thought of not having Eucharist available on a daily basis because of the lack of priests overwhelmed me and inspired me to say yes to the training to become a leader of prayer.

Fr. Lyle Schulte was so very supportive of me and grateful to know when he was on vacation or a priest was not available, there would be a service for his parish community. Clearly I remember how frightened I was as I looked out over the congregation on a Friday morning leading one of my first communion services. There was a group of Serra Club members present.

As a Catholic lay woman leading a prayer service, this was new territory for our community. A few of the elderly men were not pleased to see me on the altar and made their opinions known.

But many of these elderly gentlemen became my best advocates! It is the Spirit who speaks through each one of us. I am blessed that the Lord gave me the gifts to be able to be a leader of prayer at St. Joseph Parish to serve the people of God.



Fr. Alan Burkhardt leads parishioners in a procession around the block celebrating the feast of Corpus Christi.

TgIF Tale

Eucharistic Ministers

By Ron
Kobishop

In August of 1973, the Communion Minister program was started at St. Joe's.

Most people were receptive to receiving communion from lay people, but there were some "crossovers" to the celebrant's side. I was one of the first 12 and have been regularly scheduled since.



This Nativity Scene is set up on the south side of church, outside of the Family Center, during the Christmas season.

Nativity Scene

By Ron Kobishop

My eldest brother was very active at St. Joe's (he had four children graduate from St. Joe's School) until he left when the boundary change went into effect in July 1967. However, it was either the Christmas season of 1967 or 1968 when my brother called and said he was going to trim out some evergreens (that was his hobby, he had a large backyard) and he was wondering if St. Joe's could use some for the outdoor nativity scene.

So my loving wife called the rectory and, well, you know the good Msgr. Jim Finucan never missed a trick, "maybe Ron could help Mr. Ed (the custodian) erect the nativity scene when he brings the trees?"

Well, with the help of family, friends and custodians over these past years, we are still able to erect the nativity scene at St. Joe's.

In 1970, we began with Fr. Peter setting up the nativity scene and decorating the trees at Christmas. "I know where there are some BIG trees in Bevent," says Fr. Peter. We spent the better part of a day chasing through the snowy fields of Bevent looking for BIG trees. How we got those monsters home and in church, I'll never know, but that was the only year we had really BIG trees.

We went to artificial trees in the early 1980s after some minor fires at area churches during the Christmas season. So again with the help of family and friends, we have been able to keep up the tradition.

St. Joe's - A Special Place

By Don & Sally Dehlinger

St. Joseph's Parish has always been a special place for us. Don has been a member since he was about 14 years old, for more than 40 years.

Sally became a member in 1976 and has been a member for about 33 years. We both remember how friendly, warm and close the parish members always seemed, now and when we first joined.

Don remembers the early folk choir in which teenagers and some of his classmates participated. Grade school members played also, as did the Schultze brothers and the Corcoran brothers when they were in high school.

As our own young family grew, the children's Mass was always special. We enjoyed having our children participate. We are fortunate to have such a welcoming church community as St. Joseph's.

TgIF Tale

Good Seeds

By Joann
Kronebusch

In the fall of 1993, Fr. Lyle initiated a quarterly newsletter to all parishioners – trying to reach out to all parishioners, not just those who attended church.

“Good Seeds” was another project for the parish office and it has been ongoing to the present.



Each year First Communicants, such as these shown with Fr. Alan Burkhardt, participate in the May Crowning ceremony, honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary, sponsored by St. Anne's Society.